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SOUTH STAY IN FRONT



By Stuart Bell

WITH just five weeks left before the 1999 Top Six competition kicks off glamour southern side South Melbourne maintains its pole position – even although Adelaide City spoiled the party mood last Sunday when Carl Veart and Damian Mori combined to snatch a last-gasp equaliser.

That sees South Melbourne and Sydney United on top separated by goal difference although the re-scheduled Round 23 match between South and Perth Glory will settle a few issues.

Perth Glory are just a game or so away and poised for any late slip-ups by Angie Postecoglou's players.

Despite their impressive home record it looks as if Sydney United will push the champions all the way to the wire.

Officials at Soccer Australia are delighted with the box office success of this season's competition.

Controversy has always followed club gate figures but with the majority of clubs toeing the official party line with more realistic attendance submissions this season the figures are all the more impressive.

And this season's one millionth spectator is set to click through the turnstiles next weekend.

That will present the league with a

welcome all-time record, with the depressing attendances of the mid-1980s finally a distant memory.

The success of the summer competition, with increased NSL centres, sounds a warning for those critics who wish to see the league reduced in numbers.

"This has been a remarkable season for the Ericsson Cup," said Ericsson Cup General Manager Stefan Kamasz.

"The introduction of Northern Spirit has assisted with the increase in crowd figures this season with Perth and South Melbourne also experiencing bumper crowds.

"Last weekend's matches established a season aggregate crowd figure for the one million mark to be broken in Round 26.

"This will be the first time in the league's history that we have achieved this figure in the regular playing season, which excludes the Finals Series.

"We're all looking forward to the next five rounds as we see a number of teams lift themselves and battle for a spot in this year's Finals Series."

South Melbourne has produced the

most consistent soccer this season as they seek to become back-to-back double winners for the first time in NSL history.

On Friday night they play Sydney record busters Northern Spirit in a game which may set the north shore club's new attendance record.

Officials expect a huge crowd for that important clash but it could well turn into a party celebration for the Victorians if they manage to collect those three vital points.

South Melbourne have lost only one home game in the last two seasons and that factor could well see them crowned Premiers again in five weeks time.

But South Melbourne captain Paul Trimboli has put a lid on early talk of celebrations, saying: "Perhaps if we were well clear in the top two we would be thinking ahead but we can't afford to."

"History shows the championship winner normally finishes in the top two so we have to make secure one of those positions before we start thinking of the finals."

And already the bookies have installed Sydney United and South Melbourne as the favourites for the top two positions.

South Melbourne skipper Paul Trimboli: no early celebrations

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Summer dreams, I don't own the sharks says Con

By Sam Lienert

ADELAIDE Sharks director Con Makris has said investors would be foolish to try to start a third national soccer league team in Adelaide.

Soccer Australia (SA) chairman Basil Scarsella said informal talks had been held with an Adelaide consortium looking to create a new team next season, to be known as Adelaide United.

But Makris said he did not believe any business people would be stupid enough to put up the \$6 million required by SA to start a new club and he had been foolish to invest in the Sharks.

The Sharks are likely to fold at the end of the season with a debt of about \$600,000, average home crowds of just 2,677 and players who have not been paid for the past six weeks.

"I'm putting money in because I'm a fool, everybody tells me I'm a fool and I know it, if you find somebody else

you send me a telegramme," Makris said.

He said he had pumped \$600,000 into the club since the start of the season but it had been prompted by concern for the traditions of the club, not as a business move.

"If it was for business I would say goodbye right now. Business, what business? We are doing it because the club has

unless the government is involved."

Makris said Hindmarsh Stadium, the home ground of the two Adelaide NSL clubs, the Sharks and Adelaide City, was a white elephant and the state government had wasted money by investing in the current upgrade of the ground as it would be impossible to fill.

"It is a dream, it is a summer dream."

And Makris said it was not his responsibility to pay money owed to Sharks players.

He said he was not the Sharks' owner, but simply had majority voting rights on the club board.

"It is not up to me, I never have been the owner of the Sharks," he said.

stage and still a long way from any firm proposal.

He said Sharks players would be taken over by SA if the club folded and would be able to be traded to any club with transfer fees going towards the missed payments.

And should the new consortium be successful they will seek to replace the embattled Sharks.

For the last few weeks club supporters have been feeding the players while up to six have formally asked for their contracts to be declared null and void.

The group is believed to be headed by South Australian financial consultant Peter Emery.

"Informal talks have taken place," Scarsella admitted.

"Soccer Australia have been presented with a letter which is more of an expression of an interest.

"We now need to see a formal bid, including business and marketing plans."

The proposal must be lodged by June.

"I won't be doing this for ever because I am not an idiot or a sucker, they will have to find the money from other people. I have done my part, I gave them \$600,000."

been there for 60 or 70 years," Makris said.

(The club was formed as West Adelaide Hellas in 196 - Ed).

"The Greek and Italian communities started it when they came here 60 years ago, we are raising money because it is a cultural thing.

"Nobody will make money out of soccer in Australia, these people are fooling themselves

"Hindmarsh Stadium is the biggest white elephant in Australia," he said.

"It doesn't have car parks, even a shopping centre provides car parks.

"Adelaide is a (AFL) football town, even my children follow the Adelaide Crows.

"The first thing the government has to do is to fill that white elephant Hindmarsh Stadium.

"I have 51 per cent of voting rights, I put \$600,000 into the club but there are no shares," Makris said.

"I won't be doing this for ever because I am not an idiot or a sucker, they will have to find the money from other people.

"I have done my part, I gave them \$600,000."

Scarsella said talks with the Adelaide consortium were only at an informal

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Blatter on collision course

WORLD football supremo Joseph Blatter has said he was surprised about the harsh criticism of his reform plans especially from Germany and insisted that nothing was decided yet.

"In Germany I am the villain. I am the problem, not my plan or my calendar," Blatter told

the Swiss mass circulation paper Blick.

Blatter had created a storm when he first in January revealed plans to hold World Cup tournaments every two years instead of every four and again at a FIFA executive board meeting when he called for a worldwide season

from February until November and a reduction of domestic leagues to 16 teams.

"We will look into this," he said.

"I not only hear concern from Europe, but also from South America.

"Looking at the calendar, a 16-team league is the ideal solution.

"But that does not mean it will become reality," he said.

"The dialogue is open for players, clubs and federations," Blatter insisted, and added he was not all too concerned about the attacks from Germany.

"As FIFA boss one has to stand above this."

Blatter's proposals - a standardised calendar by 2005, from 2009 on World Cup tournaments every two years and from next year on also a club world championship - have been met critically by the European body UEFA and even more by

some German officials.

Borussia Dortmund boss Gerd Niebaum fumed at the weekend: "If the FIFA makes new decisions every four weeks we have to ask ourselves: Do we really still need FIFA?"

"For us UEFA is more important than FIFA."

Leverkusen manager Rainer Calmund was quoted by Kicker sports magazine Monday as saying Blatter's plans were "highly un-serious."

But the dust had settled by Tuesday when Calmund came up with his own ideas in Germany's Express daily.

They are based on Blatter's plans and set up for the domestic federation as well as UEFA and FIFA.

"One can have all events if one plans it well," said Calmund, whose season runs from late February through November, with December completely off, Janu-

ary and February for season preparation and several weeks reserved in summer for major championships.

Calmund said that only very few players would in fact play 81 matches per year (domestic, continental cup and national team), so that they would not be worn out.

"The key is that 80 per cent of the players have no more than 45 games because they are no national team players and also do not play on an international (club) level," Calmund said.

But Blatter seems hell-bent on a collision course with the might of Europe.

Whether or not his plans are free of ulterior motive he is directly challenging the power of UEFA, an organisation which is heavily controlled by clubs rather than national teams.

It may yet be the single factor which sees the FIFA boss toppled.

Rugby tops Stadium Australia

By Neil Harvey

THE Australian Rugby Union has laid claim to a single day ticket sales record for Stadium Australia after it released tickets for the August 28 Bledisloe Cup Test.

It said 14,500 tickets for the All Blacks v Wallabies match were snapped up by the general public in one business day.

ARU spokesman Strath Gordon said Stadium Australia had confirmed that bettered single day sales totals achieved for the Bee Gees, the National Rugby League double-header, and the new Olympic stadium's opening ceremony combined with a World XI v Socceroos match.

Police called in to investigate Viduka transfer

Defending Scottish soccer champion Celtic has called for a police investigation into Australian Mark Viduka's Stg3 million (\$A7.73 million) transfer from Croatia Zagreb in December.

Viduka fled Glasgow and returned to his family home in Melbourne citing emotional stress and a need for a break from the game, just days after his transfer from the Croatian club was completed.

However, the 23-year-old striker returned to Celtic last month, ending speculation about his playing future, and has scored four goals in his first two games for the Parkhead club.

Scottish newspaper The Daily Record reported today that Viduka had warned Celtic chairman Fergus McCann that part of the transfer proceeds would go directly to Zagreb officials.



McCann has refused to pay Viduka's transfer fee despite demands from the Croatian club and European soccer's governing body UEFA.

The Daily Record quoted a letter from Celtic director Fergus Sweeney to FIFA, detailing that he had called for a police investigation into

the deal.

"My club is disturbed at the events surrounding Viduka's transfer, and the depths of its concern can be gauged by the fact that

the circumstances have been reported for investigation to ... ascertaining whether there are any fraudulent elements in those circumstances," the

letter said.

Celtic has paid Zagreb £900,000 and the disputed balance will be subject to a later FIFA ruling.

No Mexican hat dance

MEXICO'S last minute bid to host the 2006 World Cup was firmly rejected by FIFA.

Mexico had been hoping to become the ninth country to bid for the right to stage world's biggest football festival but its application arrived at FIFA headquarters 20 days late.

"The executive committee decided that as the request was too late it had no option but to reject it. The Mexican documents were a month too late," said FIFA president Sepp Blatter.

The Mexican Football Federation blamed problems with airmail deliveries for the delay, according to a top FIFA source.

Mexico has already twice staged the World Cup - in 1970 and in 1986, when it stepped in after the original host nation Colombia could not fulfil its requirements.

Eight countries are battling for the right to stage the 2006 tournament.

Germany and England are the two European candidates, while Brazil is the South American bidder.

Five African nations - Nigeria, Ghana, Egypt, Morocco and South Africa - have also thrown their hats in.

Perth to host international Olympic soccer

GREECE has chosen Perth as its Olympic team training base leading into the 2000 Sydney Games, the West Australian Government has announced.

Negotiations are also under way for teams from Italy, Yugoslavia, Spain and Korea to train in Perth and take part in a festival of sport in Perth planned as a lead-up event to the Olympics.

About 180 members of the Greek team would spend 10 days in Perth in August, 2000, said WA's Sport Minister Norman Moore, who recently signed an memorandum of understanding with the Greek

Olympic Committee in Athens.

The Greeks will compete in the festival which includes team sports such as water polo, volleyball, basketball and soccer.

"Greece, for example, is strong in team sports like soccer, water polo and basketball," Moore said.

"There are few better water polo teams in the world than Yugoslavia.

"The festival of sport will enable our coaches and administrators to look at overseas training methods and coaching techniques."

Subject to international teams qualifying for Olympic teams finals, the festival would include NSL club Perth Glory playing the Greek soccer team, with negotiations continuing to secure the French and Italian teams.

WA Premier Richard Court said Perth had a lot to offer teams bound for the Olympics.

"The facilities in New South Wales are stretched to the limit," he said.

"Here they will have access to international sporting facilities, they will be able to be competing and training with many other athletes".

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Bruce Campbell

IT'S ONLY AN OPINION

IT WOULD seem that soccer is in a crisis; our playing standard (at NSL level) is at a low, our best youngsters are being pillaged by bargain-hungry European clubs, and at a district level all sorts of problems exist.

Once upon a time it used to be big news when an Australian player was signed by an overseas club, now it is almost an anti-climax.

I can still remember the excitement, and it was only a few seasons ago, when Mark Bosnich's Aston Villa played against Jason Kerton's Blackburn Rovers.

It was the first time that two Australians had played in opposite sides in an English Premier League match.

Nowadays it would scarcely rate a mention.

Maybe it is time that a lot of people in this game realised that we are doing something right.

We must be because we keep on producing a seemingly never-ending stream of Australian talent.

I can recall 1971 when my own brother George was on a short term contract at Hibernian in Scotland trying to get a first team place.

The-then coach, Eddie Turnbull, told him after a while that he had to change his style so much and there were fifty kids in the queue behind him who were only 16.

He was, then, an old man at 21 and had already been involved in two Grand Finals with St George.

How time has changed.

But maybe one of the few things that I regret about Australian soccer's progress is that great clubs like St George and Hakoah have passed on at the top level.

Who would have thought that would have ever happened.

RECALLING St George and the great days of the late 60s early 70s when they had the best team in Australia, a certain Sydney journalist, John Economos, was then the reserve team manager.

John reminded me in the press box at Marconi recently that the only thing he has ever agreed with me about is my comments regarding the great Jim Baxter, one of the most skilful midfielders to ever pull on a pair of boots.

John has been around such a lot time that HIS opinions are well worth listening to and we also spoke (other than the elation of him finally agreeing with me over something) about the recent Hall of Fame inductions.

I know that there will be a lot of people who quibble about who was left out, not necessarily who was put in.

I asked how on earth Adrian Alston's name had been overlooked.

This isn't the time or place to set up a tribute for one of the best strikers this country has ever seen but I wonder on what ground he did miss out.

John reminded me of another deserving footballer who had also been ignored; John Watkiss.

'Gentleman' John played in more senior Grand Finals than any other Australian player and if memory serves me correctly never received a yellow card in a very distinguished career.

Certainly if either I or John had been consulted those two names would have been proposed.

And there are certainly others.

Again, the Hall of Fame is a marvellous innovation and everyone who was responsible for it finally happening deserves recognition.

But maybe the net for collecting nominations could have been spread a bit wider.

Whoever was responsible for speaking to the media failed totally.

Maybe that can be corrected the next time.

Maybe that SHOULD be corrected the next time.

THANKS again to the many people who call me at *Inside Soccer*.

I like to think that I listen wherever I can and then digest those thoughts and suggestions.

I can't promise that I will agree with you - but then I don't ask that you agree with me.

Recently I actually agreed with two out of three points a caller made.

The one that missed the mark concerned a wrong junior score which was actually supplied to us electronically - no chance of a mistake on our part.

Another comment concerning our masthead touched a point which has bugged me for a while, hence the change this issue which was done after consulting with our shareholders.

The third one concerns the current problem which affects kids wanting to dual register with competitions now run separately by the NSW Amateurs and the NSW Federations.

Both bodies do a great job for the game, both strive continually to improve their service. But in the battle which has seen Soccer NSW collapse as a casualty there is only one real loser - the kids.

I know of parents who have forked out hundreds of dollars in registration fees only to find that their kids have to choose between local and regional soccer. Very few understand what has gone on, very few care about the politics. It would be nice if it could be resolved quickly.

Gone Are The Days
THE 'good old' days of soccer have gone.

So have the spectators. In the 'good old' days, when there was a great influx of migrants the soccer games were not just a competition between various nationalities, but more like a social gathering where one met all their friends and associates and would communicate in their mother tongue.

This type of communication is slowly disappearing as new generations are born here in Australia and are mixing with kids of other nationalities at school etc.

As they, and their children, are our future we must cater to their needs.

It was the migrants who brought soccer to the level it is in Australia.

This level is quite good, but we must now lift it to a higher level.

I feel to achieve this we must put all our ethnic biases aside and move toward unity.

To be able to stand strong in numbers (at present a few thousand supporters at each club game is only peanuts), unity and reconciliation should be encouraged by Soccer Australia.

Northern Spirit wish to call themselves an Australian club but we all know the players, the spectators and the owners are mainly ethnic.

The important thing is that they have a healthy crowd of all nationalities and they play professionally.

For the reminder of us so-called ethnics to achieve a similar result, we should form consortiums of ethnic and non-ethnic NSL clubs.

For example, one in west Sydney to play at Parramatta and one in the south to play at Liverpool.

Present clubs (UTS Olympic, Marconi and Sydney United) should be compelled to play in Super League where the maximum age for a player should be 25 years.

This would ensure a substantial programme for youngsters and strong competition at youth level.

Your WRITE

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Players over 25 years of age should try for National League, go overseas or to a lower level competition.

National League players should all be on an equal basic wage, irrespective of which club they play for, but to be given a chance to earn extra bonus money by playing well at every game.

Players will play for the club of their choice and not just the money offered.

Let the National League clubs have just academy youth teams which would also participate on a professional basis.

If any strong Super League clubs wish to participate in academy youth league competition, that would be a bonus.

I would like to see people who also wish for modification of the current system to write to *Inside Soccer* with their own ideas to prevent the death in this country of a truly great game.

Ivan
Valley Heights NSW
(This letter was edited for the sake of brevity. Some great points, some contentious - but all opinion, and to be encouraged.)

I wouldn't mind seeing the NYL played at Under 21 level with a second tier Under 18 competition introduced - and all players to be placed on a minimum wage.
Just a thought ... - Ed.

Alan Hunter
I TOO think Alan (Hunter) is a bit top heavy with his "world class" comments; in fact I think every match has about one or two dozen "world class" feats in it.
So what!
Who cares?

I even manage to have a good old laugh about it every Sunday evening.

But sometimes the feat really is world class (in my opinion), a Catlin save, a Slater-Marusic one-two, a Lozanovski cross, a Boutsianis free kick or more recently a Haythornthwaite goal.

Actually after that goal Alan said that Tom's goal "would not be out of place in any World Cup match".

Very true.
In your 9th March issue a B Agnello letter commented on Alan's "amateurish level of voice control".

He's a player turned commentator not a bloody NIDA graduate!

I'm just happy that the ABC are at least showing something of the NSL even if it's not perfect.

Al might even end up being our very own Martin Tyler.

A. Rogers
Harbord NSW
(Nice to see someone happy.)

I think that B Agnello's comment may be centred

on the fact that Alan is paid for doing what he is doing - a professional. - Ed.

And More on Auntie ...
WHY have you stopped advertising the ABC match of the round - is it because it is no longer live?

D Smith
Canberra ACT
(No, a far more simple explanation - they stopped paying. - Ed.)

And More ...
ALAN Hunter is a good commentator.
Maybe he gets a bit excited (in his ABC coverage) but it is good to have someone of his knowledge behind the mike.

R Peters

Modbury SA
(A fair point in the debate - I, personally speaking, am all for former players coming into the world of journalism, electronic or print. - Ed)

And ... More
WHY can't the ABC cover a live game - what is going on?

E Stanton
Bossley Park NSW
(Hmm ... pass.)

Maybe it is because the clubs have had enough of their crowds being decimated, maybe it is because the ABC only negotiated two games per club per season, maybe it is time they actually put out an official statement - or even just a simple press release. - Ed.

49ers
IT IS with bemusement I read the article "Makris On Way Out" in the 16 March issue.

It has been four weeks since my return from Adelaide and nothing has changed in regards to the Adelaide Sharks saga.

As I said at that time this fiasco must reflect badly on the way clubs are managed.

The cash-starved 49ers hands are tied and Soccer Australia must step into give their support in removing Makris.

Each week one hears of board meetings to resolve non-payments' dispute and in-fighting between the two major shareholders.

Nothing gets resolved as the 51er sees fit not to turn up.

Again I ask, what is the Australian Soccer Players Association doing if players' contracts can not be cancelled due to non-payments?

This is not an isolated case, it has been going on

continued on page 6

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Your WRITE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

since Makris took control of the Sharks.

At least while Manfred Schaefer was at the helm of the team, the players had an ally to fight their cause.

As far as I'm concerned Derek Poimer had a case to return to Sydney on my spare flight ticket to negotiate with other clubs but now he may miss out on the transfer deadline.

To Soccer Australia and the Players Association I say congratulations on failing to look after the interest of our game and your incompetence causing hardship to players and families.

Well done.

Ted Lange
Kellyville, NSW

Diplomatic Pussies

FULL marks should go to Les Murray for his persistence during the interview with the current sports minister Mr Aqualina in relation to the disgraceful Leeds/Westfields scenario.

It seemed for a while that Mr Aqualina was missing the point as to what Les was trying to allude to, namely that Westfields High School had some sort of arrangement, be it formal or informal, with Leeds F.C.

Leeds have an active policy of recruiting Australian juniors and encouraging them to pledge

their allegiance to UK teams, effectively stopping them from playing for and representing Australia - the country that has spent valuable time and resources in developing them in the first place.

Les Murray's aggressive journalism has been the catalyst for the inquiry that the Sports Minister has launched into the goings on at Westfields, something that the docile Soccer Australia has been unable to achieve with its diplomatic pussy-footing.

Great work, Les.

I encourage all Australian soccer fans to pursue a campaign of anti-Leeds activity.

Leeds United Football Club should be made to know how Australian soccer fans feel about the matter by hitting them where it hurts.

I wonder how Packard Bell would react to some big, negative publicity at the FIFA World XI v Australia game?

A few big banners implicating them in front of an international audience should do the trick.

After all, they do sponsor this arrogant club, and we can only assume that this same arrogant ethos is something Packard Bell embody in their own corporate dealings.

Sandro Colantoni

Wollongong NSW
(I couldn't agree with you more.)

Mention should also be made of Les Scheinflug's stance in all of this.

He has put his neck on the line to support Australia.

But Les Murray is a

You probably know it off by heart, as it was repeated ad nauseam.

With the World Cup now only a memory, I thought I had heard the last of how Vieri played with Marconi and became a champion for Italy.

Christian of today would be played by himself; as a boy, by Bart Simpson; his father, by Tony Labbozzetta; Director Johnny Warren; Producer Kyle Patterson; Best Boy Andy Harper and catering performed by Les Murray.

For God's sake wake up.

Who the hell gives a damn.

I couldn't give a brass razoo whether Vieri learnt his football in Sydney, Melbourne, Kabul, Timbuktu or Ulan Bator.

Who cares?

Christian Vieri is a fine player and is probably a terrific person, but his relevance to Australian football is zero.

Was he on hand to knock in any goals for us against Iran?

God knows we could have done with him.

So, please, the self-appointed television gurus of Australia, for God's sake give us a break.

Keith Easton
Merrylands NSW

(Just when I thought everybody was nearly happy ... I don't think you can call Les, Johnny, Kyle or Andy 'self-appointed' - not unless you know something I don't.)

I think you call it 'background' reporting, giving information to a public which probably only tunes into soccer every four years.

Still, it has been a very lively and interesting Your Write this week - keep them coming. - Ed.)



Les Murray: investigative reporting

first class journalist and has, once again, risen to the forefront. - Ed.)

Christian Vieri

THE one thing that made my stomach turn during SBS World Cup coverage was the inane waffling about Australia's link with the World Cup via Christian Vieri.

If I heard it once, I heard it a hundred times. Enough is enough already.

Alas, with Vieri's likely inclusion in the World XI in June, I fear the genie of Vieri's childhood will once again be let loose from the lamp.

Will Vieri's childhood in Australia become a movie series, perhaps rivaling the Star Wars trilogy?

Of course he already has a cast and crew ready to hit the Hollywood trail.

Inside Soccer cadet Luke Bear talks to Adelaide City star, CARL VEART

WHEN you were growing up in Adelaide did you ever imagine that you would become a professional soccer player?

"No, not really.

"Of course, I dreamt about playing professional soccer but at that age you never really think that you can."

Who do you see as the main threat in this season's Top Six?

"I'd say South Melbourne would be the favourites and a few of the other clubs are close together."

Which of all the goals you have scored is the most memorable?

"I suppose the one that I scored against Arsenal to knock them out of the FA Cup."

What is the difference between the game in England and Australia?

"I think the pace in England is a lot quicker and it is also the same throughout the whole of the game."

Since you have come back to Australia have you been surprised at the

crowds at North Sydney and Perth Ovals?

"I think when the clubs get research and spend a bit of money then they will get good crowds."

Do you think that the loss to Wollongong Wolves in last season's finals will make Adelaide City stronger this time around if you make it?

"Well, I can't really say much about that because I wasn't with the Zebras last season.

"But we have a good mixture of youth and experience at the club."

How do you rate the Zebras' chances of winning the Ericsson Cup?

"I think at finals time it all depends on who is playing the best at that time.

"I mean South Melbourne could have played well all season and then lose a few games during the finals."

And finally, do you hope to be selected for Australia's next World Cup campaign?

"I think that I will be a bit too old for that one!"

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UNDER 20s B TEAM

AUSTRALIA'S build-up to next month's World Youth Championships is continuing on a positive note with the influence of an in-built B team.

In the 2-0 victory over Dutch First Division club FC Twente last week the Under 20s line-up included goal-keeper Bredan, defenders Bosnar and Byrnes and dynamic midfielder Bresciano.

One hopes our boys click as well as the in-form Sydney United B team.

Certainly coach Scheinflug was pleased with the performance in a team that is developing a better understanding between each other.

Belting out press releases is a busy Bozabalian (Rozzanna that is) from Soccer Australia during their hectic period which includes the WYC and the Top 6 race for the NSL crown.

CHECKING OUT THE OPPOSITION

Remember Australia's historic 4-3 victory over Argentina in Malaysia '97?

I'm sure the Argies are still smarting over that hiccup but their form in CONMEBOL qualification has been stunning.

In Group A qualifiers Argentina were undefeated and won the competition against Group B hopefuls with one defeat in five matches, defeated Brazil 2-1 and only conceded two goals over the eight day competition.

More pre-WYC news as the event approaches.

WORLD XI SELLING WELL

The FIFA World XI versus the Soceroos on June 12 at Stadium Australia is the official opening of the Sydney 2000 showpiece.

Around 22,000 tickets have been sold at this early stage.

Interest for the local soccer team to

WHEATLEY'S WORLD



block book a section of the stadium for major event is progressing.

The NSWASF, via its association network, look set to play a role in handling tickets for the 'soccer community'.

Details to be revealed by the end of the month.

Don't panic by the way, there are 110,000 tickets for sale.

ABC TV

Despite reports to the contrary ABC TV is featuring games that have a distinct bearing on the play offs.

Sydney United, Adelaide City and South Melbourne in the next month, all live on a Sunday afternoon at 5pm.

Maybe a fax of that information

should get across town to News Limited's sports bunker.

RUNNING OUT OF ROOM

Wheatley's World has brought you news of the increased growth of registered soccer players in the past.

Add Northbridge soccer club of the Ku-Ring-Gai Association to the list. Tireless secretary Nicky Mackay

informs me that player numbers are up and close to the 800 level.

Try organising them onto one field. Yes, one small ground at Northbridge Oval.

ABBAS

Injured Sydney United striker Abbas Saad is battling to get back to business but has no problems in the personality area - according to a recent player profile in *Puma News*.

Asked if he had ever dated/been photographed with anyone famous Saad's response was a mild "Too many to name."

Can't beat confidence.

SYDNEY UNITED NOT A FINALS THREAT?

Quite the opposite after a fabulous 4-3 home victory over Brisbane on the weekend.

Goals to Barrett, Ardane (see picture left), Burns and Berry shook the shackles from the theory that Sydney United are a spent force without Under 20 representatives Joel Griffiths and Mile Sterjovski.

For the Round 25 victory they were also missing Nathan Day (suspended), coach David Mitchell (injured), Abbas Saad and Joe Caleta was benched in favour of livewire Danny Townsend.

AMATEUR COMPETITIONS READY TO ROLL

The first of six major competitions run by the NSWASF, the Centenary Cup, gets underway shortly.

Hosted by Granville Association, full details of the long running round robin event can be found on the web at www.isport.com.au

Good to see a team from North Tasmania throwing themselves into the five day Under 12 event.

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Enes on Trial

SPIRIT midfielder Robbie Enes flew out of Sydney last Wednesday on alighting whistle stop trip to England where he was on trial with First Division Barnsley.

"Robbie is an exceptional talent and I have no doubt he will be very successful in England," said Spirit chairman Remo Nogarotto.

"I think this is a tremendous move for him."

In his absence Spirit coach Graham Arnold recalled veteran Ian Crook for the match against the bottom of the table Cosmos.

South get new deal

South Melbourne Soccer Club has announced a new Executive Corporate Sponsorship with Pacific Car and Truck Rental.

Zebras ditch Italian deal

ADELAIDE City have abandoned their planned merger with the South Australian Italian Association.

The Zebras planned to create a licensed club in the city centre of Adelaide.

The plan had been a merger and investment from Fairmont Homes.

The Prince looks at his 'worst case scenario' with Empoli

NEITHER Olyroo Vince Grella nor Paul Okon played or were named on the bench in the recent 0-0 draw between Empoli and Lazio.

Grella, in fact, has been forced to sit in the stands to watch his team-mates of late, as he struggles to make the side - but it's not all bad news for the young Australian, who joined his Under 20 team-mates in Holland last week, as preparations continue for the World Youth Championship.

"We have a new coach at Empoli and he's changed the system, where he plays three midfielders, one defensive and two attacking," says Grella.

"I'm normally a defensive midfielder, but he wants me to play attacking, which unfortunately doesn't really suit my style. I can't play that position in Serie A because I haven't got the speed. If you like to look at it from a Soccerroo point of view, it's like

playing Ned Zelic where Tony Vidmar plays in the national team.

"Zelic's role is the one I was playing, now the new coach wants me in the new position, but honestly, the guys we already have to cover that position are better than me - which is why I'm sitting in the stands and not even on the bench at the moment.

This hiccup could dampen the spirits of the most seasoned players, but Grella is nothing if not optimistic, with Empoli offering him a future which is very tempting.

"Empoli has offered what I would classify as a lucrative four year deal," says the former Carlton and Cosmos player.

"I'm happy it not optimistic, but I'm not signing any contracts until I return from the World Youth Cup, because I want to concentrate all my energies into the Championship.

"There are a couple of big clubs interested in

me, but quite honestly, all I want to do for one year is play solidly before the Olympics, and hopefully be a part of the Olyroo squad.

"That's my next big aim."

Grella believes his last chances for achieving that aim are at Empoli, regardless of whether the club drops to Serie B, rather than going elsewhere and having to find his way again.

"I'm very comfortable with this club," he adds.

"I know everyone hear from the Manager to the Gear Steward, and I like where I am - and quite frankly, if we drop, Serie B is still a very strong league.

"Not that I'm guaranteed that (a starting berth) at Empoli, but the fact is that up to 12 players could be leaving the club.

"There are seven players on loan here, that's seven trying to stay in Serie A, as well as five players who have been with the club from the

transition from Serie C through to where we are now, and those players, after five years of moving with the club, are nearing the end of their careers.

"I'd never say I'll be a regular in the team next year, but I believe the opportunity will be much better than it is now, and the rest is up to me.

"I know my ambitions, and it's up to me, and

only me to fulfil them."

The attitude is both refreshing and mature, and it seems this young Australian has spent quite a bit of time weighing up the pros and cons as he attempts to map out his future that lies head of him.

"Let's look at the scenarios," points out Grella.

"If I play a full year next year, then I'm picked for

the Olympics and play well, I should be able to move into a bigger Club regardless, and that's at 20 years old.

"If that doesn't happen, and I stay with Empoli for another four years, well, at the end of it I'll be 24, with five years of Italian playing experience under my belt. That's not too bad for a 'worst case scenario' is it now?"

Mark the Matador?

GLASGOW Celtic's Australian striker Mark Viduka said he wants to play in the Spanish league - but he will see out his contract with the Scottish club.

Since his return after 'emotional stress' Viduka has bagged four goals in two games as Celtic keeps up its pursuit of Rangers at the top of the table.

"I hope I can continue to score a lot of goals and improve so that I might interest a club in Spain when my contract is finished," the 23-year-old told the Scottish Express newspaper.

"I have always thought the Spanish League to be a very interesting one and I already love the culture of the country.

"I like bullfights and Flamenco and the people themselves, who seem to be very similar to Croatians.

"I have several friends who have played there such as Robert Prosinecki and Goran Juric and another friend Igor Cvitanovic is still at Real Sociedad.

"They all say it would suit my style and I would love the chance to live there."

And the Australian has tried to downplay his controversial walk-out of the Parkhead club saying: "I don't want to be remembered as a player who was at the centre of a club dispute for years and years. I want to be known for my ability on the pitch."

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inside
SOCCER

Grella impresses in Cup build up

World Youth
Championships 1999
NIGERIA April 3-24

AUSTRALIA opened its campaign for next month's world youth soccer championship in Nigeria with a strong 2-0 win over Dutch second division side Heracles last Wednesday.

The Young Socceroos dominated with Sydney United striker Joel Griffiths winning the ball inside the opposition half and beating two defenders to chip over the goalkeeper and open the scoring in the sixth minute.

The Under-20 Australians had several more opportunities before Carlton midfielder Marco Bresciano sank a 20metre shot to wrap up the game in the 51st minute while 16-year-old Mark Byrnes was named man of the match at centre back.

"The boys worked very hard for their victory today, but the team is definitely improving and, overall, I'm happy with what I've seen in this first preparation match," coach Les Scheinflug said.

Scheinflug said the squad had been working excellently since arriving



in Holland.

One setback was the absence of midfielder Vince Grella (above) and John Maisano who were still feeling the effects of vaccination injections needed for Nigeria.

Grella, who plays for Italian Serie A club Empoli, has a mission in Nigeria to make up for a mistake at his last ap-

pearance with the Young Socceroos.

"I'm really looking forward to playing in Nigeria, especially after the World Youth championships in Malaysia in 1997 where my mistake against Japan cost us the game," he said.

"That's been a monkey on my back and I'm looking forward to making

amends this time round.

"It's been some time since I represented Australia and it's actually been keeping me up at night."

Grella said Empoli has offered him an excellent contract but he is totally concentrated on the championship and playing for Australia.

The 19-year-old Victorian has been with Empoli since October after moving from Carlton.

But he had a typically Australian response when asked his feelings on being back with the national side.

"Words can't describe the way I feel," he said.

"That kind of mateship is missing at Empoli although everyone wished me success when I left to join the team.

"In Italy, everyone keeps a little in reserve because there's so much at stake, and basically,

when you have to draw the line of you play or me play, it will always be me play.

"That's what it takes to be a Serie A player and I understand that."

"It was different at Carlton and being back with players like Simon Colosimo and Mark Bresciano is good for me. I miss having someone to have a laugh with in the change rooms."

Following four matches in Holland, Scheinflug has also arranged another two matches in Spain before the team arrives in Nigeria.

And Australia's build-up to the world youth championship continued in positive style with a solid 2-0 victory over Dutch first division club FC Twente on Friday.

Once again the young Socceroos started on the offensive, with Sydney

Olympic midfielder Brett Emerton taking just 11 minutes to put his name on the scoreboard, burying his shot to put Australia up 1-0.

Defensively, the Australian backline of Eddy Bosnar, Michael Cunico and Mark Byrnes were impenetrable, while midfielders Vince Grella, Marco Bresciano and Jason Culina put the local defence under constant pressure.

The young Socceroos showed the same focus and conviction in the second half, Grella setting up striker John Maisano, who drilled his shot past the keeper to give Australia a 2-0 scoreline in the 58th minute.

The Australians kept the opposition on the defence for the remainder of the match, with coach Les Scheinflug happy with the way the

team is evolving.

"This was a very solid performance which showed that the team is developing a better understanding between each other," said Scheinflug.

"The players are realising now what sort of intensity and consistency is required to be competitive in World Cup football and know how hard they must work and concentrate in every match they play to achieve success.

"I was particularly pleased with Grella and Maisano in their first match, both boys putting in a lot of effort and boosting the team through their work rate and encouragement of others throughout the match," he said.

Australia next match is against Waalwijk today (Tuesday, at 2.30pm local time Holland).

Group A
(playing in Lagos)
Nigeria,
Costa Rica,
Germany,
Paraguay.

Group B
(Kaduna)
Ghana,
Croatia, Argentina,
Kazakhstan

Group C
(Ibadan)
Australia,
Saudi Arabia,
Mexico,
Ireland.

Group D
(Enugu)
Uruguay,
Mali,
Korea,
Portugal.

Group E
(Kano and Bauchi)
Cameroon,
Japan,
England,
United States.

Group F
(Port Harcourt and Calabar)
Zambia,
Honduras, Spain,
Brazil.

Nigeria pleads for best youth

ORGANISERS of the World Youth Cup to be held in Nigeria next month plan to meet officials of UEFA, European soccer's governing body in a bid to convince them to send their best players to the tournament.

"...our team leaves for London tonight," spokesman Danladi Bako said.

"We will talk to the English FA and UEFA officials."

Some Western club sides,

particularly in England, have raised fears for the safety of their players if they travel to Nigeria, a nation with a reputation for crime, fraud, and tropical disease.

Bako said: "No country has a saintly reputation but some comments made about Nigeria and the tournament are biased."

"We hope we'll allay fears of European teams after the meeting."

During the draw in Nigeria

FIFA president Sepp Blatter said competing countries had been instructed by letter to send their best players.

However, the sport's world ruling body ruled last week that it would not sanction clubs who failed to release players for the tournament unless asked to do so by national associations.

The 24-nation tournament runs from April 3-24.

Wingell, Marherini, Ollerenshaw and Seo involved in late signings

CANBERRA Cosmos resigned former defender Dale Wingell before the transfer deadline last Friday.

Wingell had been an instant hit at the club in the early part of last season.

But he failed to reproduce that sparkling from after coming back from injury and was released at the end of the season as the club went through a shake-up of its playing staff.

And Sydney Olympic gave Korean international Hyo-Won Seo a final trial with a view to signing him late last week.

Olympic coach Branko Culina was looking to fill the gap caused by the absence of inter-

national duty of Under 20 star Brett Emerton.

Seo has played 28 times for Korea.

Meanwhile, Marconi have registered 25-year-old Italian import Ricardo Margherini.

Margherini was injured in mid-week training, effectively ruling him out of last weekend's match with Perth Glory.

And in a shock move Sydney United were locked in talks with the cash-strapped club's administrator over the signing of former Socceroo Scott Ollerenshaw.

Ollerenshaw ripped up his contract with Northern Spirit

earlier this season after failing to overcome an injury.

But he returned to action a few weeks ago on loan to NSW Super League side, Ryde City.

The former St George striker was expected to return to North Sydney Oval but United were given permission to talk to him.

And Malaysian football was rocked last week with the resignation of Alan Davidson from his position as coach of Pahang. The M league started at the weekend.

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We are a local and privately owned organisation that has been operating in the Illawarra and South Coast for over eight years. Michelle Greig is the Director of MBC and together with her team have extensive experience in providing a range of services including: Staff Recruitment, career advice and training.

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Spirit looking to stay at North Sydney

NORTHERN Spirit soccer club and North Sydney Council have made significant headway in discussions regarding Northern Spirit's long term tenancy at North Sydney Oval.

The Spirit have generated unprecedented support at North Sydney Oval but the costs associated with hiring the picturesque oval is eating into the capital base the club has assembled.

Expenses to hire the ground, move the cricket pitch to co-exist with grade cricket, the hiring of lighting for home matches and corporate facilities have been the topic of conversation between Northern Spirit and North Sydney Council. In recent weeks those discussions have progressed well and Northern Spirit chairman Remo Nogarotto is confident the issues will be sorted out and a long term lease will be signed before the end of the 1998-99 Ericsson Cup.

"Things are moving along very well with the discussions we have had with North Sydney Council," Nogarotto said.

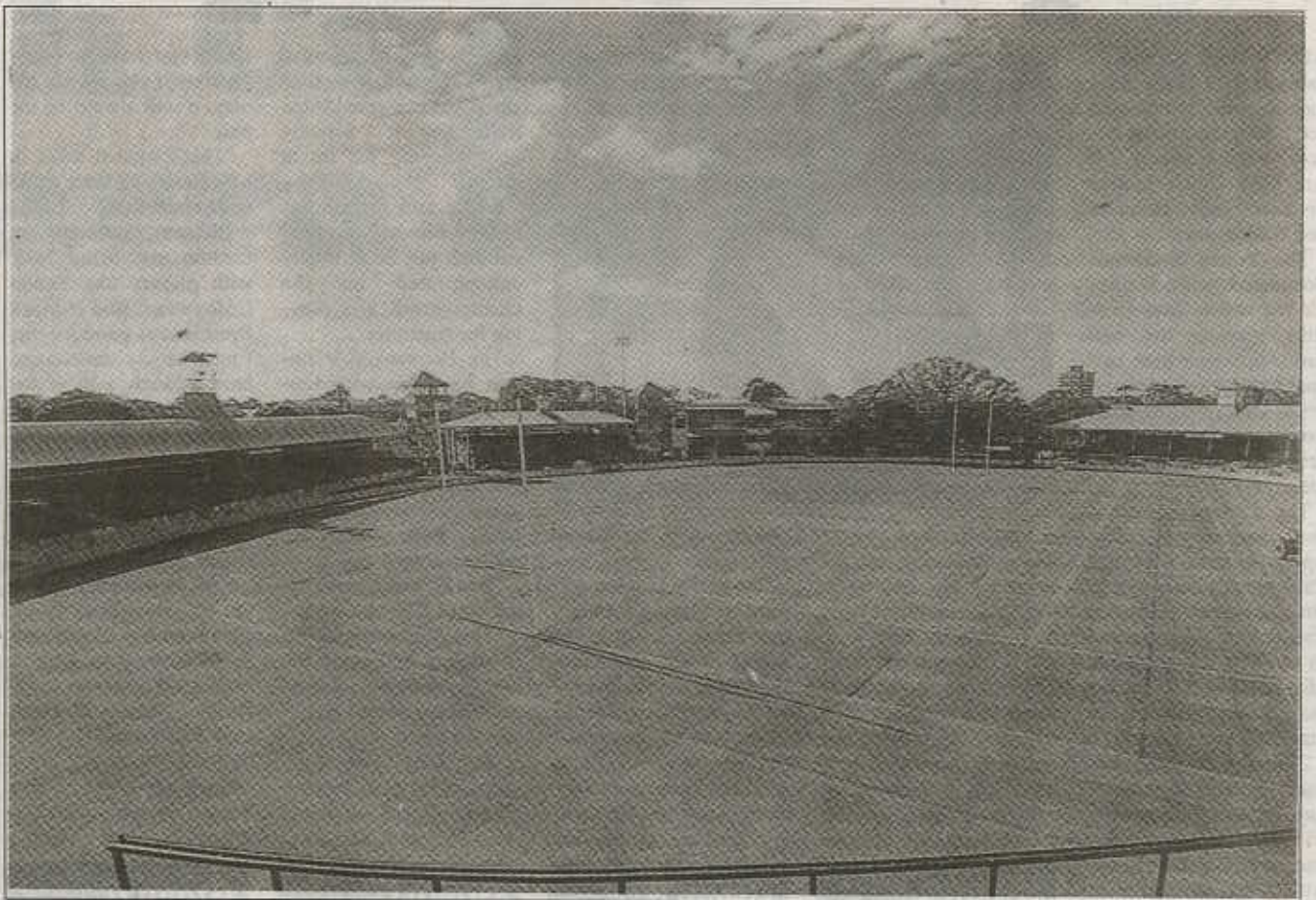
"We have spoken about several issues and Council has been reasonable in looking at our requests.

"The issues we have raised regard the lighting at the ground and our need to hire lighting, the expense of moving the cricket pitch and the improvement of facilities for our corporate guests.

"Things are going well and council have been great with what we are asking and when we have an outcome in writing we will put pen to paper and sign a long term lease to base ourselves at North Sydney Oval."

Nogarotto was quick to dispel rumours that the club was seeking to move to Brookvale Oval.

Average crowds of more than 15,000 have generated a carnival atmosphere with families, business people and soc-



North Sydney Oval: could become the long-term home of Sydney glamour club Northern Spirit

INSIDE SOCCER Australia's weekly soccer Bible **OUT EVERY TUESDAY** - coast to coast

cer enthusiasts uniting to support the club.

"We have never wanted

to move but we feel we need to arrange a more equitable deal with

North Sydney Council for the long term and that is progressing well," No-

garotto said. "We have a wonderful home at North Sydney Oval and

we look forward to continuing to fill the oval for many years to come."

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United and Sharks battling to survive

By Paul Millar

A GROUP of cashed-up overseas investors is considering buying out financially-crippled national soccer league side the Adelaide Sharks.

The Sharks are battling for survival and are widely tipped to go into liquidation at the end of the season, if not before.

Sydney United's future in the competition is also under a cloud even though the club is chasing a top two place in the lead up to the finals.

The Sharks will hold a general meeting on March 28 which is likely to determine their future.

Soccer sources told *Inside Soccer* that international investors were looking seriously at taking control of the club and totally restructuring it.

However any move to take over the Sharks will be dependent on the outcome of the general meeting.

One of the recommendations which will be put to the meeting is that millionaire busi-

nessman Con Makris, who bought a 51 per cent share of the club pre-season, be removed from the board.

Makris has invested heavily in the Sharks but it's believed that unless he has total control he is no longer prepared to prop up the ailing club, saying the debts are far larger than he was led to believe when he became involved.

His investment also entitled him to 51 per cent voting rights.

If he stepped down or quit, the new board would then look at coming to a scheme of arrangements with creditors.

If that could not be arranged then the club would move into voluntary liquidation.

The Sharks are expected to see out the season but Soccer Australia could take control of the player contracts if it had to prop up the club.

A sports study of the Adelaide region has shown that a national soccer league side drawing its support from the mainstream community has the potential to attract up to

20,000 fans a game.

The Sharks, however, draw the majority of their crowd from the Greek community.

The overseas investors would want to totally revamp the club and shed its ethnic image following in the footsteps of Perth Glory and Northern Spirit.

Sharks' spokesman Andrew Stathopoulos admitted the club was battling to survive.

"We will try and save it, but it's looking pretty grim at the moment," he said.

Sydney United coach David Mitchell said he is owed a substantial amount of money by the club and players are also behind in wage payments.

Mitchell said unless the club broadens its support it had no long-term future in the league.

United draws its support almost exclusively from the Croatian community.

"If we do not change I do not see any future, all the clubs which rely on an ethnic support base are in the same boat," Mitchell said.

The future is still bright: Tony Perinich

BY STUART JONES

TONY Perinich is a player who has had his ups and downs in football.

Last season he had shone in a very successful Wollongong side.

This season he was looking forward to being a full time professional for the first time in his life, yet one cruel swing of his leg and contact with the ball and all of a sudden he was under the surgeon's knife.

It goes to show just how close a player can come to losing it all, how one minute can ruin a life.

Fortunately for Tony Perinich the future is still looking bright.

Perinich grew up around Cabramatta.

His first soccer club was Cabramatta Police Boys Club where he played on the left wing.

"They were the best days, when I just played

for fun," he says.

"I have always had my speed and I enjoyed running around.

"Then it was off to Marconi juniors from under 12s to 15s where I played with the likes of Mark Bosnich, Paul Okon and Adam Ciantar."

His high school years were spent at Liverpool Patrician Brothers and then Fairfield Patrician Brothers.

He played his school football alongside Marconi junior team mates Ciantar and Okon.

He had one brief season at Sydney City while at high school before taking a year off football.

"I had always been the smallest boy in my class, in fact in my year," he recalls.

"All the other lads had grown and I was short and skinny.

"Compared to the other boys trialing for Sydney City Under 18s I was too small, so I took a year off and played only high school football.

"By then football had turned from fun to being a business.

"A year later I started to grow and Parramatta Melita took me on.

"Then I turned out for what is now Liverpool City alongside the likes of Rene Licata (now on the board of Northern Spirit for whom Perinich is contracted), Vlado Zoric and Paul Souris."

It was during his tenure at Liverpool that Tony

Perinich's career moved further upwards - on the field that is.

He had always played in the midfield however in the second year at Liverpool he started playing more and more up front.

"In the end I trialed for St George as a striker and that is what Des Martin took me on as," he says.

"A year later and unfortunately they were being relegated and so I was on the move once more.

"We had a good side although things did not turn out well.

"David Zdrilic and I were up front and on a personal level I had a good year."

On the move once more he landed nearby at Rockdale Suns.

"That first year we went through a lot of coaches and a lot of off the field stuff affected us," he reflects.

"Manfred Schaefer took us over in the second year and I did well.

friendly around the club.

"There were no egos at the club and team spirit was the best.

"There were no clicks and we enjoyed going out as a team, before our Perth game we had three days in Perth which was a great time, and the win on the field showed we were really enjoying the game.

"We were lucky last year that most of the time we had the same 11 on the park.

"We knew where we were on the field and knew each other's strengths and weaknesses.

"Lots of people mention how Wollongong have missed me this season which I take as a compliment but really I think the side has been less stable in terms of playing together.

"However, there are still a great many quality players at the Wolves and I always enjoy going

move onto someone else.

"The club did not get back to me until after I had signed for Spirit so it was all done.

"In the end, though, Spirit were offering me a great package plus the added incentive of being a full time player.

"I had always dreamed of that as I had to supplement my Wolves wage with a bit of painting work."

So, to the new season back in Sydney and Tony played six or seven pre-season games, scoring quite regularly along the way.

Then he busted his knee just shooting for goal in training and was out for the season.

"I had had an athroscope on my knee during my time at Wollongong and that had gone wrong so I was out for a lot of one season," he said.

"Now I was up for major surgery due to the wear and tear on the

with the boys but I don't want to risk a come back too early.

"Right now my knee is at 75% compared to my right leg.

"To play you need 85% and I would want it 90% plus.

"The worst thing about being out is watching the lads play.

"If I do not concentrate on the game then it is a bit better but if I watch the game I will go and try and play the game in my mind.

"I miss playing a lot and what makes me mad is when I hear people say that I have not put enough work in getting back.

"Those sort of people do not realise the risk you can take by trying to fast track a recovery.

"Most times I have stayed positive and tried to ignore what others say, in the end I do not care what others think or say about me.

"When I was a kid football was fun but now it is a business.

"Saying that, I love the game, if I did not love it I would not play it that is just the way I am."

Having watched a lot of NSL league this year it is interesting to see how Tony Perinich rates the league.

"The NSL is still a good league," he says.

"Yes, we have lost a lot of players overseas but that is to the credit of Australian soccer.

"At least it is not like a Scotland where only one or two teams dominate and the rest of the quality is rubbish.

"As for the state league it is good to see a number of players come from there and make it in the NSL.

"The big difference between the two is you get a lot more time on the ball in the NSL."

So what of the future?

"For the time being my only aim is to get fit again. I always knew I would come back but once I am I want to prove I am still a good player.

"I want to work hard next season and pay back Spirit for its support.

"Then I am looking to play overseas in the likes of Holland or Greece for a few years.

"Really by playing well next season it will give me one last chance to make it abroad.

"It is a tough off-season ahead of me but one that I am looking forward to."



Tony Perinich: fighting back to fitness

"There was talk of me going with him to Marconi but in the end Berti Mariani came and watched me and he must have been impressed because he invited me to come down and trial with the Wolves."

He had three seasons with Wollongong playing 72 times and scoring 18 goals.

"I really loved my time and Wollongong," Tony Perinich says.

"The whole atmosphere was so casual and

down to watch them."

After three seasons down south many were surprised to see Tony Perinich on the road once more, this time north of the Harbour Bridge to the newly formed Spirit side.

"In the end it was not even a decision I had to make," he says.

"Northern Spirit came in for me and offered me a three year deal.

"I went back to the Wolves and said I needed to make a decision quickly as Spirit would

knee.

"I was worried about the future but the surgeon assured me I will be fine.

"In fact my left leg will probably end up stronger than my right.

"It will not even effect my pace.

"Early on all I could do was physio, then about four months in I did weights and skipping and then a few runs.

"These days I have just started kicking a ball around.

"I am close to training

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New star almost became a Wolf

by Bruce Campbell

LAST Friday night a new star was born in the National Soccer League.

The venue would not surprise many.

North Sydney Oval, the home of Northern Spirit, houses some of the pedigree players of this year's Ericsson Cup.

But added to names like Slater, Arnold and Marusic is the new guy, Paul Roberts.

The problem is that he doesn't even play for Northern Spirit.

Instead it was Robert's probing from midfield that set up Tommy Sermanni's side for that shock win last weekend.

But it could have been so different.

The man with the surfer looks actually looked like signing on for the Wollongong Wolves this season but he rejected what he called a "low" financial offer.

He had come back to Australia from an overseas scholarship in the USA and after playing with the Australian Indoor side was looking at time off.



The very talented Paul Roberts: a new star in the Ericsson Cup

But a phone call from Illawarra Premier League side Port Kembla saw Roberts back in action.

That preceded an invitation to train with the Wollongong Wolves.

It looked like Roberts had missed his chance when he returned to Canberra but an early season crisis at the Cosmos saw

him offered his chance.

Since then he has done little wrong.

And what does the new star who had cut his eye teeth in the Canberra Metro production line think of doing this winter?

"I might be back at Port," says the quietly spoken lad who was such

a big hit on the South Coast.

"They have already spoken to me so we will see what happens."

And the Wolves?

Roberts smiles, but it was anything but humour at Spirit Park last Friday as he destroyed his more illustrious international opponents.

Kennett foreshadows WC bid



by Alan Clark

"It will probably go to England next. It is a possibility (that we'll go for

VICTORIA'S Premier Jeff Kennett, one of the spectators at the South Melbourne Adelaide City match at Bob Jane over the weekend, said that Australia should be well-placed for a bid for the World Cup in 2010.

"We were given bad information by the Board of Soccer Australia," he said. "We should have gone for 2002."

"We could have easily got it."

"It's an absolute barney now between Korea and Japan."

"I'd love to have it here in Australia."

"I'm not going to send good money after bad, so we've got to have a real understanding that we've got a fair chance of getting it."

2010). It's a very big industry and other countries will be able to dramatically out-bid us.

"We've got to be able to offer something more than just hard cash."

"We've got to offer an atmosphere, security, hospitality, and value for money."

The Victorian Premier - South Melbourne's Number One ticket-holder - also tipped South to repeat last year's championship: "I think we're going to see back-to-backs."

"We've had a very consistent year on the field, I think our coach (Angie Postecoglou) is second to none, and the players are performing well."

Bugsy's View with Marconi skipper Brad Maloney

AFTER losing to Perth 4-3 at home on Saturday, there is no doubt that at Marconi we have left ourselves a mountain to climb if we are to figure in the Top Six play offs.

We have no one to blame but ourselves, but make no mistake we won't be throwing in the towel and will fight and scrap in every one of the remaining five games.

A victory over Perth Glory would have put us right back in the frame, but it wasn't to be, and full marks to Perth for a fine win.

We lost two early goals and were always playing catch up football from then on, although it has to be said that we really pressured the Perth defence and some would consider us unlucky not to take something from the game.

The previous week we found Newcastle Break-

ers keeper Bobby Catlin in super form, and this week it was Tony Franken's turn to put the shutters up.

It seems these days that Marconi Stadium is the stage for keepers to excel!

What a fabulous entertaining game it was for the supporters though, with end to end action and goal mouth incidents aplenty in a seven goal thriller.

Frank Farina also made a comeback in a Marconi jersey, and showed that he still has what it takes to play at the highest level in Australia.

Frank maybe didn't get on the score sheet after he came off the substitutes' bench, but he had a hand in our third goal.

Our fans were terrific and I'm only sorry that we couldn't turn the result around for them.

We have been saying

for weeks now that every game we play is almost like a 'Grand Final' for us, and after successive defeats by Newcastle and Perth Glory, that situation hasn't changed.

Our coming match against Carlton in Melbourne is the first of what will in effect be 'elimination' games for us, as anything other than victories in our remaining matches will surely see us out of contention for the play offs.

Looking at the league table I'd have to say that South Melbourne, Sydney United and Perth Glory were all high and dry, and had Northern Spirit not suffered a shock loss to Canberra I would have included them as 'certainties' for the Top Six too.

That 2-1 win by Canberra over Northern Spirit just shows that when it comes to predict-

ing soccer results it is more of an art than a science, and I'm sure that there will be a few more shocks before the season is over.

For Marconi the task in hand is clear, win our remaining games against Carlton, Melbourne Knights, Wollongong, Adelaide City and Northern Spirit and we will be in the semi finals, lose one or more and we will have to rely on the sides above us dropping points to make it.

Everybody at the club is focusing on a concerted effort to make the play offs, although I have to admit there isn't much margin for error.

As stated earlier in this article, this coming weekend's game against Carlton is a critical fixture, and the reality is that whoever is the loser in this game can say goodbye to a top six position this season.

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Falcon: local born and bred

by David Arnold

IN AN underachieving season for the Gippsland fan, the presence and continual development of a local lad in the first 11 remains a bright spot.

John Hutchinson, 20 years old, Morwell born and bred, came to the Falcons from the local State league club Morwell Pegasus, where his family has a long and storied tradition.

Scouted by Frank Arok and bought in by him during Arok's two-year stint at the club, Hutchinson progressed swiftly making his debut for the Falcons in the 1996-97 season, alongside the likes of Sekulic and Krncevic.

Hutchinson started the predictable substitute route in gaining experience and confidence playing with the big boys in the NSL.

The arrival of Stuart Munro as Gippsland's coach has seen Hutchinson's career move

in an upwardly mobile direction, finally coming of age.

Indeed, Yuppie is probably Hutchinson's nickname (and if it isn't, it should be).

Munro gets the rapt from his pupil.

"He's a great coach, the best I've ever had, his communication is superb and for me his best attribute is teaching options, what to do here and why," says the young player.

Encouraged to play an attacking game from his favoured left sided wing-back position, Hutchinson has demonstrated an ability to beat the man and go for the line to deliver a telling cross.

As a wingback, the complete package usually has something missing.

Speed, stamina, crossing, tackling and positioning are all key attributes the modern wing-back should possess, and Hutchinson has it all and possibly even more - except for one crucial fac-

tor.

Comparing him to other wingbacks around the country, the likes of Renaud and Lozanovski have a higher profile and so receive more attention from national officials.

Playing in Morwell, away from the prying eyes of the media, and more importantly, the lack of television coverage, has seen other players jump ahead of him.

Hutchinson had made the 1999 WYC his short-term goal, followed on by the Olympics and of course the obligatory overseas contract.

Instead of going overseas for the money, Hutchinson is excited about the prospect of playing in England's North-East, in a place such as Newcastle.

"Newcastle in England is my favourite team, my Grandparents were from there before coming to Australia.

"I have a Britis passport through them and really am on the lookout

for a trial, and of course a contract, but so far nothing has happened."

It is no fault of his own that he made a strong and convincing run towards prominence just a tad too late for the WYC.

The let-down runs deep and has affected him

"I was really hoping to make the WYC squad, and when I didn't make it, I was very disappointed," he says.

"But I will now focus on making the Olympics.

"Stuart has been a big help here, advising me - little wonder he has the respect of all the players."

John Hutchinson is a local boy making good, and he fully appreciates the opportunity and occasion of playing for his local team, in front of family and lifetime friends, something of a rarity in professional football these days.

"Playing for Gippsland has been the highlight of my career so far," Hutchinson finishes off.

Gladesville represent Australia in Gothia Cup

by Bryan Cokely

than 1,000 teams from sixty competing nations.

Gladesville Hornsby Football Association under 16s will be representing Australia at the 25th Gothia Cup in Gothenburg, Sweden, from July 18 - 24.

The Gothia Cup is the world's largest youth tournament.

It has an opening ceremony and Grand Final played out in front of 30,000 at the magnificent Ullevi Stadium where the 1995 World Athletics Championships were held.

European TV stations cover the event which has produced stars such as Alan Shearer, South American Marco Etcheverry and Scotland's Steve Nicol.

Previous Gladesville teams have finished as high as 17th out of more

This year's tournament is expected to be bigger with local Swedish authorities claiming that all flights and ferries into Gothenburg are fully booked for the period.

In order to take part, G.H.F.A.'s under 16s need to raise approximately \$90,000.

This challenge will be met by the players and parents' fund raising committee.

The committee have many activities planned.

Spokesperson Maisie Squadrito outlined the programme.

"We have successfully completed an open Golf Day, a Soccer Camp is planned for 6-9 April, a soccer memorabilia auction night on the 24th April, and we are running a major car raffle," she

said.

"Guest Northern Spirit players will appear at the camp and Harry Kewell's Australian shirt is one of the items up for auction."

Mrs Squadrito is hoping Northern Spirit fans will support the ticket raffle at forthcoming home games.

"Tickets will be on sale before and after the game outside North Sydney oval at each Spirit home game. Tickets are \$2.00 with a Mitsubishi Mirage as the major prize," she said.

G.H.F.A. are a feeder club of the Spirit and many of the current under 16s will be playing for the Spirit Colts next season. Mrs Squadrito appealed for all soccer fans to get behind the boys and support them in their attempt at bringing back the Gothia Cup

Inside Soccer's TRIVIA MOMENTS

WHICH club won the first Australia Cup?
ANSWER: see Ram Scoreboard, p30.

El Tel still owed two million: Palace on the brink of going bust

By Paul Cox

English First Division club Crystal Palace, facing a desperate fight for survival with debts of Stg22 million (\$A57.49 million), revealed today that former England and Australia manager Terry Venables was owed Stg2 million (\$A5.23 million).

Venables was coach at the London club for just six months before chairman Mark Goldberg decided he could not afford his basic salary of

Stg750,000 (\$A1.95m) per year.

However, the former England manager could still demand as much as Stg2 million from the ailing club as part of his compensation package for agreeing to terminate one of the most lucrative coaching deals in Europe.

The financial plight is so severe that the 94-year-old club has been placed in the hands of administrators Buchler Phillips, who have just three months to devise a rescue package.

Goldberg said: "I would have been able to reduce the debts if I had not supported Terry Venables in his dream to bounce straight back into the premier league.

"My biggest mistake was chasing the dream and still bringing in players when I should have been selling them," the Crystal Palace chairman added.

The computer business tycoon has already lost Stg23 million (\$A60 million) of his personal fortune since buying the

south London club in the summer but warned other English teams are facing a similar plight.

Goldberg called for a meeting involving the Football Association and the Football League to address the problem of players' wages spiralling out of control and leaving clubs financially crippled.

Palace is losing Stg500,000 (\$A1.3m) a month and debts include Stg1.5 million (\$A3.9m) to English clubs and more than Stg5 million (\$A13m)

to foreign teams in unpaid transfer deals.

Administrator David Buchler, who helped save

second division club Millwall, blamed the problem on the club's relegation from the money-spinning premier

league last season.

He said: "The amount of money owed and the trading losses make this

extremely difficult.

"This three-month period is critical to ensure the future of the club."

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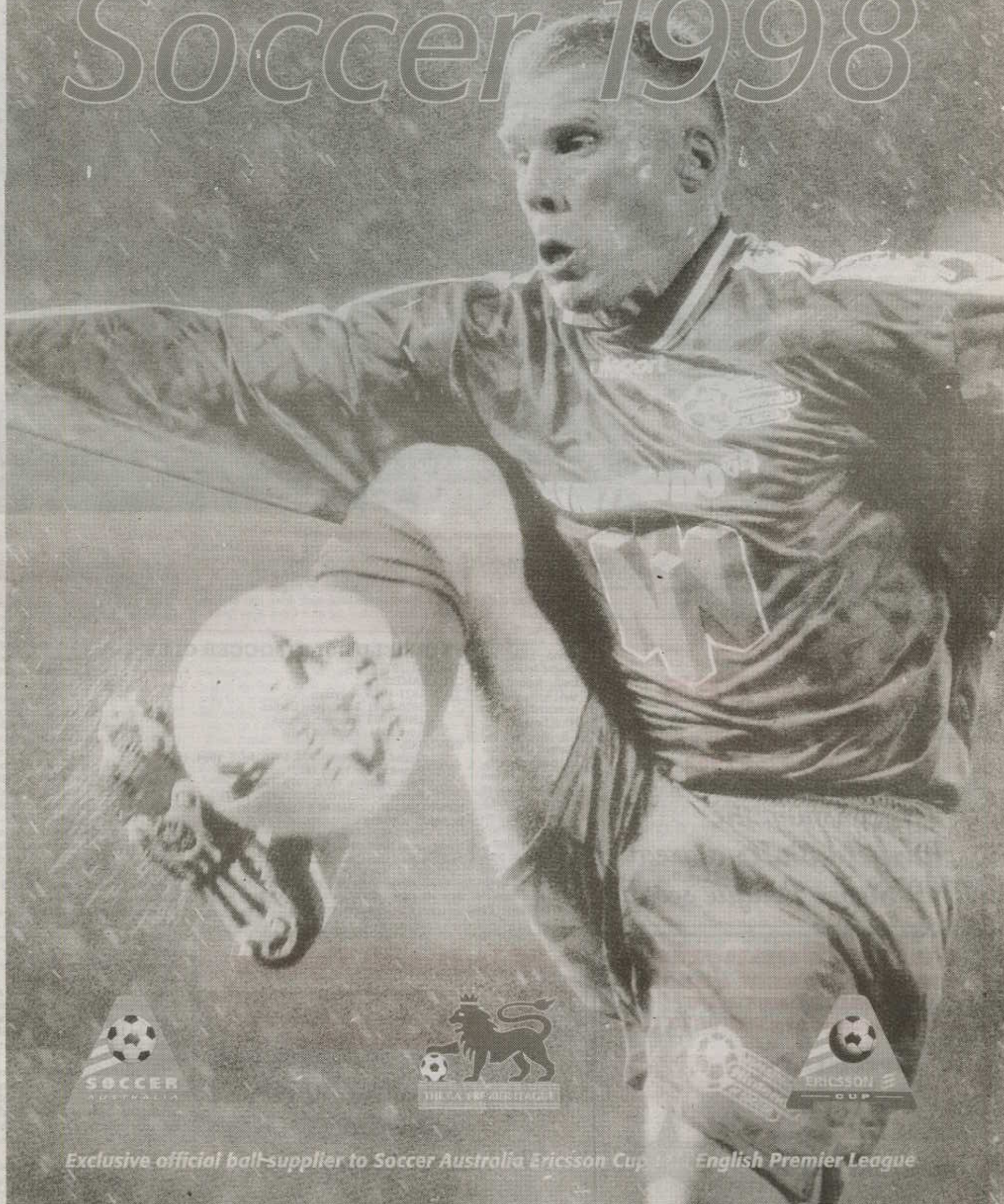
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FAIRFIELD BULLS



PROFILE OF AN AUSTRALIAN SOCCER CLUB

by BRUCE CAMPBELL

ONE of the shock starters in this New South Wales Super League season is west Sydney side, the Fairfield Bulls.

Fresh out of the First Division, and with a new coach at the helm, few would have expected anything other than a mid-table spot in the first season in the top flight.

In fact, chatting with coach Joe Watson before the season started that looked exactly like what he was hoping for.

Back then, and with still a couple of weeks to go before kick off he said: "To be honest I'd settle with the middle of the table."

"It's hard to say what will happen until you start to play competitive games."

"This is my first season with the Bulls and I suppose a lot of things could happen."

Watson, one of the best midfielders Australia had in the 70s and 80s, was then still looking to sign a few key players - as well as his assistant coach.

But he got the personnel he wanted and since then the Ram Scoreboard in *Inside Soccer* has told the weekly story.

Even if the new guys don't keep up the blistering pace they have set themselves in this first season, and there is nothing to suggest that they won't, Watson has already sounded the warning that the Bulls will be a force to reckon with.



FORMER AUSTRALIAN YOUTH STAR DARREN IOCCA: now starring for Super League side Fairfield Bulls

THE CLUB was formed in 1971 as 'Assyrian', playing its soccer in the Southern Districts Association second division.

That is light years away from the slick, professional outfit of today but

even then the ambition of the club was evident.

In that first year they were promoted to the Southern Districts first division after winning the second division Grand Final.

1972 also saw the club now known as the Bulls record a massive 13-0 win over Liverpool Invicta - a record which still stands today as their biggest ever win.

Three years in the SD first division saw a move into the old Inter Suburban league and, after winning the Grand Final and League double, the Bulls applied for, and were granted, membership of the NSW League.

By then they had changed their name to Bonnyrigg Eagles which in turn became Nineveh Eagles in 1982, each change reflecting the club's status at that time.

In 1994 the present title, Fairfield Bulls, was adopted by which time they had moved into their new stadium in Edensor Park.

A fairly quick climb through the league rankings saw them promoted into the fifth division in 1978, third in 1979 and second in 1981.

Changes in league structure saw them slide back down into what was called the Inter Urban First Division

This time they kept going, and after a two year spell which saw them crowned champions they were promoted to the penultimate level, first division.

Four hard years of consolidation was eventually rewarded when they

finally won the first division Grand Final last year after having already clinched the first division league premiership. And the kind of dedication which has seen the rise and rise of the Bulls was also paralleled in youth league football when they were promoted to the NSW Soccer federation's

youth league this season after 28 years in Southern Districts soccer.

This season the club fields teams in Under 13, 14, 15 and Under 16 grades of the NSW Youth League.

Because of changes to the league's structure the Bulls have been immediately promoted to Division 1 status. The career path for players at the Bulls doesn't stop there either, because the club also has a team in the Under 11 and Under 12 NSW Cadet League, newly formed this year.

"Our membership of the Southern Districts is continuing," says Emmanuel Kanna, "and this year we will be fielding two additional youth sides, one Under 17 and an Over 35s. "1999 will be a very full and occupying year."

The club has prepared for this season and trials and training for the youth and cadet teams started way back in November - making it almost twelve months of continual soccer.

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Former City star guiding Bulls to new heights

THIS season started well for Fairfield Bulls, an outstanding 3-1 away win over Ryde City at Wentworth Park.

"It was good to win there because it brought back a lot of old memories," said coach Joe Watson.

Watson had played at the ground regularly in his days with Sydney City.

The inner city ground is already proving a good trip for the Bulls and they got another away win their, this time 3-1 over Eastern Suburbs, Watson's old club.

The former Soccerroo would have had no problems with that, demanding professional standards from both his players and himself.

"I had good times at the club and when they were the Sydney Cosmos it looked like things would move along," says the man they call Jinky Joe.

"But things change in football and when I was offered a chance at the Bulls I took it.

"I am as ambitious as the next man and I would like to think that we could do good thing here.

"The club has a very nice social set-up with outstanding premises at Nineveh.

"The ground itself is being upgraded too and a stand has recently been built.

"The club has the space to do good things here and I am sure that it will continue to grow."



Jinky Joe Watson in his playing days with the star-studded Sydney City side. Now he is setting the park alight again, as a coach of the high flying Fairfield Bulls



senior grade players

Dragan Pupovac
Sean Cahill
Adam Eshq
Martin Driene
Nikoila Mandic
Robbie Grubba
George Zabetakis
Slavatore Larocca
Sasho Talevski
Jason Falzon
Mark Hoenselaars
Matthew Borg
Paul Bourke
Chris Giometti
Phil Treharn
Michael Vrankovic
Richard Giometti
Darren Iocca
Richard Varga
Jeffrey Suzor
Gelvin Shuk
Jason Hallaby
Nathan Curteen
David Sawina
Michael Lemezina
Javier Gelos
Martin Batalla
Wayne Spiteri
Adrian Blanko
Edward Pintos
Steven Jacobs
Edvin Sejranovic
Allan Wawi
Jako Mistic
Nick Maslinkoski



youth grade

Travis Glen
Robert vadala
Gabriel Anorga
Andrew Teni
Daniel Tosolini
Phong Tran
Sam Masri
Severio Quattrone
David 'Urso
Simon Emmanuel
Daniel Morin
Andrew King
atthew Spinks
Stephen Viski
Sammy Karam
Ashur Daoud
Simon Zahra
Aaaon sawina
Lupco Najdoski
Tin Myde
Rocky Sarkis



No doubts about talent or commitment

MAKING their mark in the Super League has certainly not surprised the club's officials.

"We have a strong squad," says Sargon Makko.

"We have strengthened last year's team by adding another seven players with previous Super League or NSL experience."

New signings include George Zabetakis (Hurstville City), Sam Lorroco (Sydney Olympic), Paul Bourke and Martin Driene (Leichhardt Tigers), Jason Falzon (Parramatta Eagles) and Michael Vrankovic and Sean Cahill (Wollongong White Eagles).

Matthew Borg has also returned to the club from Ryde City while Darren Iocca is a former Marconi player and Australian youth international.

Regular keeper Dragan Pupovac, who has become almost a fixture in Sydney soccer, will be well challenged by Sean Cahill who played with last season's Illawarra Champions although he missed the Grand Final with a shoulder injury.

Last Sunday the Bulls were up against it with a home fixture against Super League leaders Macarthur Rams.

But at the end of a hectic and rough-and-tumble 90 minutes the Bulls have proven once and for all that they have the talent and commitment to make the grade at the highest level.

That is justification of Makko's confidence.

And it may be too early to talk about a finals place, unless you ask

their wiley coach.

"I don't know," hedges Joe Watson.

"We've got a good team and we have just proved that we can mix it with the best.

"Whether or not we can do that over a whole season remains to be seen.

"But there is only one way to find out.

"Will we make it to the playoffs and then the Grand Final?

"Those are big questions.

"All I can say is that we have a good, committed team both on and off the park and everybody has the ambition to do well.

"Against Macarthur we also proved that we have the talent."

Of that there is no doubt.

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Inside Soccer PAGE 17

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activity we have a feature for you.



Match 1: Denmark 1 Australia 1

Starr sent packing

A controversial sending off marred the Australian women's soccer team's 1-1 draw against Denmark in its opening match of the Algarve Cup at the Estadio St Luis ground on Sunday.

It was Australia's first match against the seventh-ranked Danes since its 5-0 loss in the 1995 World Cup and it dominated the first half, scoring in the 19th min-

ute.

In the 61st minute, Australian fullback Bridgette Starr was sent off under bizarre circumstances.

Starr grappled for the ball with Lene Jensen after Australia was awarded a throw-in.

Starr was thrown against the fence, then Jensen chested up to Starr off the field of play as she tried to take the

throw.

Starr tapped Jensen on the head with the ball and the shoving continued until the referee stepped in, showing the Dane a yellow card and Starr a red.

The sending off spurred on the Australians and they dominated the rest of the match, scoring in the 77th minute through Julie Murray.

Coach Greg Brown had

mixed feelings about the result.

"It's a result that looks good on paper, but we were a bit despondent afterwards," Brown said.

"We didn't start off as well as we'd hoped to - we just didn't look the part out there.

"Not until the sending off did we start playing.

"Under the circumstances, the draw was probably a fair result."

Match 2: Portugal 0 Australia 0

Rare highlights in dull draw

Australian hopes of reaching the final of the women's Algarve Cup

suffered a setback when they were held to a 0-0 draw by host country Portugal in the second match of the group stage.

It was the first time the two countries have met in women's soccer and the Matildas were

confident of a good result after China had beaten Portugal 3-0 in the first round.

The inability to score cost the Australians a place in the finals after holding the strong Denmark team to a 1-1 draw in the opening round.

Lisa Casagrande came the closest to scoring in a

poor Australian display when she hit the inside of the post in the last ten minutes.

That was a rare highlight following a very drab and lacklustre first half.

It was Casagrande's 50th game for the Matildas.

But Ausytralia were

unable to break down a packed Portuguese defence.

While it was an outstanding result for the lowly rated home side it proved that Australia still has a long way to go in international football.

Golebiowski was the pick of a disappointing Australian side.

Match 3: China 2 Australia 0

Starr moment ends Aussie hopes

The Matildas displayed their best form of the Algarve Cup but were defeated 2-0 by Olympic silver medallist China in the final preliminary round match played last Friday.

In a match bristling with pace and energy, China's two first-half goals went unanswered by Australia to continue China's dream run into the final.

A moment of madness ended the contest in the 28th minute when Australian defender Bridgette Starr picked the ball up in the penalty box.

Jin Yang converted the resultant penalty as the Matildas continued to protest, arguing that

Starr handled the ball a metre over the byline.

The assistant referee had appeared to raise a flag but was not prepared to support Australia's plea.

China had taken the lead after 17 minutes when a long-range freekick surfered off the wall and onto the underside of the crossbar.

With the goalkeeper stranded, three defenders shielded the ball inches from the line, but their failure to clear proved costly as Liu Ailing bustled the ball into the net.

The two goals were a tragedy for the Matildas who had started purposefully in contrast to

the earlier matches against Denmark and Portugal.

The best passing team in the world, China was tested to the limit by underdogs Australia who won every statistic except the one that mattered. China could boast no more than four shots on target and a handful of corners for the duration.

The Matildas twice

hammered the crossbar with the keeper beaten - once from the luckless Lisa Casagrande, the other from Joanne Peters, a curler from 30 metres.

Julie Murray missed in a one-on-one with the Chinese keeper with 30 minutes remaining, whilst Casagrande beat the offside trap in the first half only to blast straight at the keeper.

THE MATILDAS: Traci Bartlett (ACT), Sharon Black (SA), Joanne Butland (Qld), Lisa Casagrande (ACT), Sarah Cooper (ACT), Alicia Ferguson (Qld), Sonia Gegenhuber (Qld), Kelly Golebiowski (NSW), Peita-Claire Hepperlin (ACT), Angela Iannotta (ACT), Belinda Kitching (Qld), Julie Murray (NSW), Joanne Peters (NSW), Kim Revell (Qld), Cheryl Salisbury (NSW), Bridgette Starr (NSW), Anissa Tann-Darby (NSW), Shelley Youman (NSW).

EDITORIAL COMMENT:

AUSTRALIA has performed miserably in the prestigious Algarve Cup in Portugal.

A series of comic-book errors, and that perennial of Australia football, 'bad luck', have seen our Matildas eliminated with scarcely a whimper.

Women's soccer is the fastest growing sport in Australia, that is a fact of which everyone involved in professional sport is reminded continually.

Yet, despite a full time programme that makes every single NSL club look like a school yard outfit in comparison, they have failed.

The ultimate test is just around the corner

now, the 2000 Olympics.

It is because the powers-that-be have been convinced that the Matildas are a good medal prospect that so much money is being lashed out on them.

Yet they have failed to respond to the challenge either on the park or off it.

A string of requests for media material from this publishing house have been met with little other than press releases which continually miss our deadline.

A more cynical person than I might think that it was deliberate. The laws of slander prevent any more finger pointing.

But in the end the real thing that counts is results, not the supply of

media information.

In Algarve the Matildas proved that they were just not good enough.

They now have another chance to atone but sadly that is on an even bigger stage, the Women's World Cup.

After that it is the real biggie.

My fear is that the fantastic strides forward which were started a decade ago by Heather Reid are going to be lost as the women's game is buried in post-2000 failure.

I hope not.

But the signs emanating from their Canberra HQ, or rather the complete lack of anything emanating from there, are very worrying if not downright ominous.

Bruce Campbell

Match 4: Sweden 1 Australia 1

Butland saves Aussies

The Matildas placed fifth in the prestigious soccer Algarve Cup here after defeating Sweden 7-6 in a deciding penalty shootout after the score was locked at 1-1 at the end of 90 minutes.

Goalkeeper Joanne Butland, in only her third international, saved Sweden's eighth penalty attempt to give Australia the win.

The victory is especially significant as the Matildas will next meet Sweden in a World Cup finals in June.

Julie Murray (pictured) equalised for



the Matildas in the 71th minute after Sweden had taken the lead right at half time.

Blatter's boost for Women's soccer

WOMEN'S football is going to play a bigger role in future Olympics declared Sepp Blatter, the head of football's ruling body, in Switzerland on Sunday.

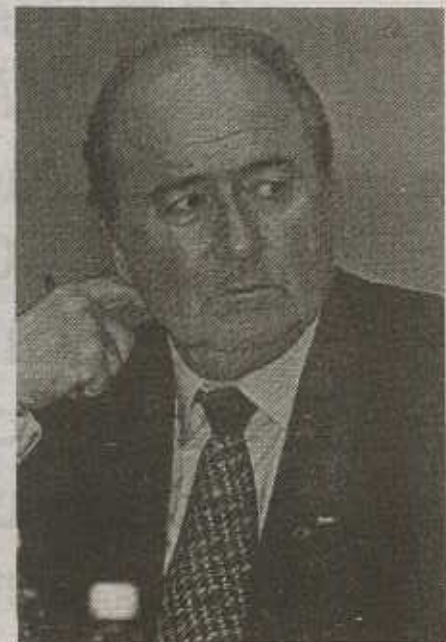
The FIFA president revealed that the number of women's teams is to be increased from eight to 12 for the 2004 Games in Athens.

"Women's football is becoming more and more important," said Blatter.

"We have also increased the size of each squad from 16 to 18."

Blatter's comments came after a meeting of the summer Olympic sports federations.

He added that a special conference into women's football will be held in Los Angeles in July during the Women's World Cup.



Rovers keep up pressure at top

by Paul Harley

ROCHEDALE Rovers stretched their winning run to four games with a solid 2-0 victory over the Ipswich Knights at Underwood Park on Saturday night.

After scoring eleven goals in their previous two games, Rovers started as though they intended to continue in the same vein.

As early as the first minute, a sharp turn by

ROCHEDALE ROVERS 2 (Cooper, Pilic)
IPSWICH KNIGHTS 0
Venue: Underwood Park

Rovers: Ross, Brattan, Lane, Harris, Davidson, Fitzsimmons, Ditton, Pilic, Alidenes, (Anderson), Cooper, (Good), Olley, (Monement)
Knights: Ferguson, Caldwell, Seeley, Scott, Drinkeld, Evans, Adams, McKendrick, (Hallett), Gacesa, (Smenzel), Clark, (Hinks), Vogler
Ref: Doug Prentice
Assistants: Brendan Carius, Tony Oliveira

right.

Four minutes later, the same two combined for Rovers opening goal.

Alidenes pounced on a

Wayne Adams corner deceived the home defence, only to bounce off the near post.

Nick Seeley fired the

Clever play by Peter Vogler in midfield released Clark, but at the end of a 40 metre run on goal, he shot weakly wide

his left to palm the ball out.

A minute later, Ross again saved bravely at Clark's feet.

And in the last action of the half, Ditton ran onto a pinpoint cross from Steve Fitzsimmons, but his shot went wildly over the bar.

In contrast to the first 45 minutes, the second half was something of a non event.

Adams received a yellow card seven minutes in for holding back an opponent, but that was the only incident of note until past the midpoint of the half.

On the 27 minute mark, Knights' Stewart Drinkeld swung over a cross from the left which evaded the Rovers defence and fell perfectly for Clark at the back post.

However his attempted shot connected with fresh air and a grateful Ross grabbed the ball before he could try again.

Knights were made to pay as Rovers went straight to the other end and increased their lead.

Cooper turned provider, a defence splitting ball finding Pilic arriving at pace in the area to slide his shot beyond the advancing keeper into the net.

Clint Scott became the second Knights player cautioned four minutes later for a nasty challenge

from behind on Pilic.

Knights then made a belated attempt to take something from the game, but were denied even a consolation goal by Ross, having more to do in a hectic three minute spell than in the rest of the game.

Acrobatic saves from Evans and Seeley were particularly impressive.

In the end, a deserved win for Rochedale, to keep up the pressure on current pacesetters Brisbane Lions.

They will now be in confident mood for next week's visit to reigning premiers Brisbane City.

Knights will be hoping for a bit more punch up front when they entertain struggling Wynnum.

AND Tony Moran reports that in other Round 5 matches Brisbane Lions continued their 100% record in the Queensland Premier League last Saturday

night, when they travelled north to Bundaberg and beat the Waves by 3-2.

Goals from Warren Allen, Stephen Starr and ex-Striker Vedran Becirbegovic were countered by one apiece from Paul Fagan and Greg Thomas.

Seen as their biggest test to date, Lions came through with flying colours, with coach

Miron Bleiberg saying that his current squad is possibly the best that he has coached at Richlands in his five year tenure so far.

With the Mount Gravatt versus Brisbane City fixture postponed due to heavy rain on Saturday, Taringa Rovers jumped into third place (behind Rochedale) after struggling to overcome bottom placed Toowoomba by 1-0.

The only goal of the game came from another ex-Brisbane Striker Andrew Packer in the first half.

The only other game of the weekend saw Wynnum record their first win with a 3-1 victory over the Gold Coast.

Scott Rucker for Wynnum and Steve Mack for the Coast scored in the first half, to see the teams go in at the break level.

Another one from Rucker, and a third from Anthony Roche killed off the Gold Coast challenge, leaving Toowoomba alone at the foot of the table.

Next week sees all five games played on the Sunday - due to the Strikers being at home - with the top four teams facing off. Brisbane City host Rochedale, whilst Lions are at home to Taringa Rovers.



Kieran Cooper gave him space at the edge of the penalty area, but he dragged his shot wide of the mark.

Ten minutes in, a good run and cross by Nick Alidenes on the left set up another chance for Cooper.

His left-foot volley was on target, but well saved by Knights goalkeeper Sam Ferguson low to his

loose ball in midfield, his accurate pass sending Cooper clear.

He made it third time lucky, calmly slotting the ball around the outrushing Ferguson from 15 metres.

Knights hadn't been seen in attack so far, but from the restart, Trevor Evans sent a long range effort wide of goal.

Two minutes later, a

rebound narrowly over the top.

Rovers threatened again in the 18th minute, Matt Olley setting up David Pilic, but Ferguson saved bravely at his feet.

At the other end, Graham Ross had to do likewise as John Clark burst through.

Knights missed an excellent chance to equalise after 28 minutes.

with only Ross to beat.

Both sides missed chances as half time approached.

In the 39th minute, Brad Ditton set up Olley whose shot produced another fine save from Ferguson.

Knights responded, a rocket shot from the corner of the area by Evans bringing out the best in Ross, leaping to

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NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE ROUND-UP

With Roy Hay

SOUTHERN DIVISION

THERE were only two matches played in the Southern Division this week, with Melbourne Knights recording a three-two win over Bulleen Inter at the Veneto Club on Thursday and Carlton having a four-nil away win at Myrtleford against Albury Wodonga.

Bulleen v Knights

The only goal of the first half in the Bulleen-Knights game came from defender Michael Bosevski of the Knights after 41 minutes.

Xzehair Suliemani equalised for Bulleen in 49 and nine minutes later Mimo Orlando converted a penalty to put the home team in front.

Serhat Hulusi got his second goal in successive games putting the Knights on terms again in 79 and with four minutes left to play young Robert Senes, playing his first game for the youth team after being promoted from the juniors scored the winner to give himself a game to remember.

Carlton v Albury

Carlton had four-nil win at Albury with the goals being spread among four players. Daniel Debevc, Marco Iacobaccia, re-

cently picked up from Bulleen, Carmello Impiombato and Izzy Erdogan were the scorers.

THE match between South Melbourne and the VIS was postponed to save the pitch at Bob Jane Stadium after the recent heavy rain in Melbourne.

Gippsland Falcons had the bye.

NORTHERN DIVISION

BY contrast in the Northern Division ten games were played since the last report.

Midweek

Going back to last week NSWIS beat ACTAS by five goals to one.

Then on Wednesday, it went down to Wollongong Wolves by two goals to one in a Round 2 catch up game.

Tallan Martin scored for the Institute and Graeme Goodfellow and Saso Petrovski for the Wolves.

Also on Wednesday Marconi Fairfield downed Sydney United two-nil. Luke Tomich scored one goal, but the other was not available.

This was a Round 17 catch-up.

Newcastle v AIS

Round 25 got under way on Friday with a high-quality one-all draw between the Newcastle Breakers and the AIS.

Tony Majurovski equalised for the Breakers after Kevo Gulusse scored his 18th of the season for the AIS.

Spirit v ACTAS

On Saturday Northern Spirit downed the ACTAS by four goals to nil.

Daniel Watkins scored twice at either end of the game, in 6 and 76 minutes.

Antonio Faria and Paul Foster scored in 23 and 25 minutes respectively.

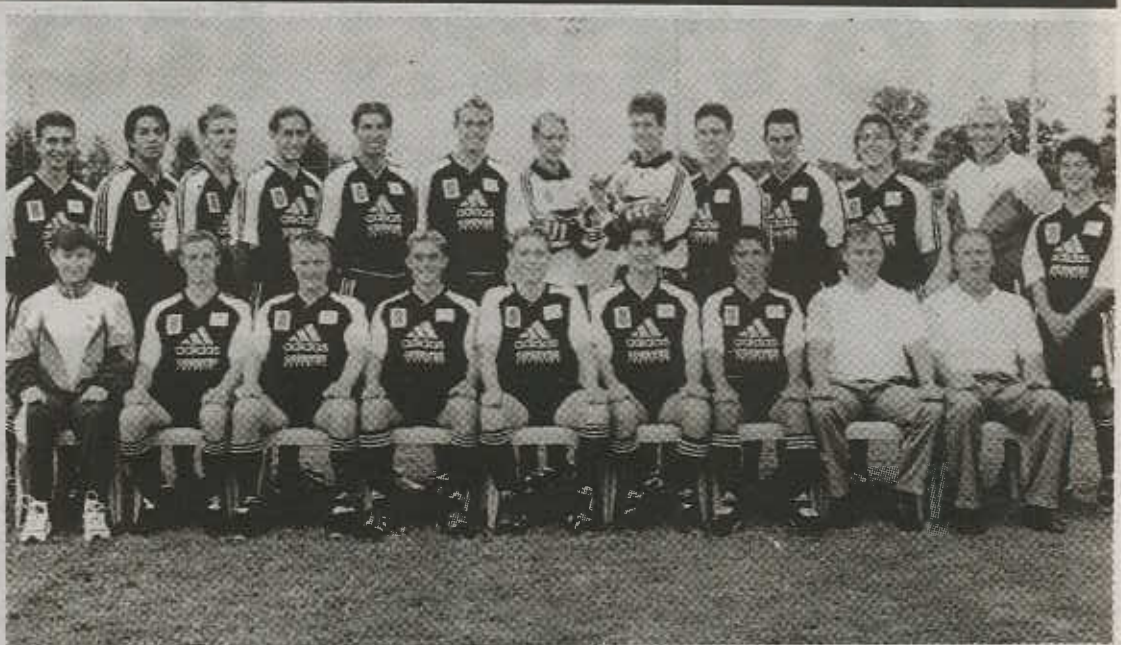
Marconi v United

Marconi Fairfield beat Sydney United Colts two-one, with Mark Haggard getting both goals for Marconi, one from the spot, to take his tally to twenty for the season so far. Frank Iorfino scored the only goal for the Colts.

Wolves v Spirit

Wollongong Wolves had a five-one win over Northern Spirit Colts and the highlight was a hat-trick by Steve Karavatakis.

Paul Tuturevski also scored, but the fifth goal was not accounted for, and neither was the Colts' contributor.



NSW Institute of Sport

contributor.

QAS v United

QAS hung on to beat Sydney United by three goals to two, thus scoring an odd goal win this week, compared with last week's odd goal loss to Marconi Colts.

Steven Bosevski and Steven Jordan scored for United in 53 and 39 minutes respectively.

For QAS it was Owen Filewood after half an hour, John McKain in 35 minutes and the winner from Lawrence Drake in

78.

NSWIS v Wolves

NSWIS then hammered Wollongong Wolves Colts by six goals to one, but you would not have imagined this result after the Colts led one-nil at the break.

Brendan Santalab scored for the Institute.

At half time Nauhel Arrarte came off the bench to be clearly man of the match, converting two penalties and contributing a sensational volley in the 76th minute.

Simon Catanzaro opened for the Institute in 50 minutes, Alex Leris scored a rare goal to make it three, after the first of Arrarte's spot kicks.

Dylan McAllister got a nice placed header after good build-up for the fourth goal.

Olympic v Marconi

On Sunday Sydney Olympic Academy downed Marconi Colts by three goals to one, two coming from Chri Seitis and one from Joe Dia.

The Marconi goalscorer was not available.

Olympic v Marconi

Finally in the clash of the giants between Sydney Olympic and Marconi Fairfield played at Marconi Stadium, Olympic dominated, missed many chances but eventually ran out three-one winners.

The goals came from John Karavatakis, Carlos Gonzalez and Adrian Cervinski but it could have been more.

ACTSF FEDERATION CUP MATCH UPDATE: ROUND 1

BY Nick Gouth

LAST Tuesday Soccer Canberra held its draw for the annual Federation Cup competition.

The event was held at the Legislative Assembly and included Bill Stefaniak, ACT Minister for Sport; Craig Smith, General Manager of WIN TV; and Steve Doszpot, President of Soccer Canberra.

"We're looking forward to getting more involved in soccer" said WIN TV General Manager, Craig Smith.

The station is already involved with local soccer through its sponsorship of the Canberra Cosmos.

The competition has been modified.

There will be four pools of four teams playing in a round robin format.

The top two teams from each group will continue to the quarter-finals.

The 16 teams in the Federation Cup come from the ten that make up the Premier League Division 1 plus six from Division 2.

The top 3 teams from last season were seeded into Pools 1 to 3 and the rest drawn randomly.

The first round was played last Sunday, Pools 1 and 2 will then play their second matches on Tuesday March 23 whilst



ACT MINISTER FOR SPORT Bill Stefaniak: opened the Federation Cup

Pools 3 and 4 are to play on Thursday March 25 with all teams backing up again on Sunday March 28 for the final games of the pool matches.

Each pool contains at least two teams from Division 1, with Pool 1 being the strongest of them all.

In that pool there is defending Cup holder, Belconnen United who start up with a tough match against Gungahlin Juventus.

Also in this pool are Weston Creek and White Eagles.

Belconnen United coach Lino Fiorese said "we have one hard game after another."

"We'll look at ourselves for the first game and hopefully get the ball rolling early."

Pool 2 contains two of the teams that made the Top 4 competition last year, Monaro and Capital City Suns.

They will play each

other in the first match whilst Cooma play Tuggeranong United. Monaro and the Suns are expected to be too good for their opponents.

Bill Dojcinovski stated that he felt this was a fair draw.

"We played Monaro first up last season as well. I'm pretty happy."

In Pool 3 Canberra Olympic face up to Division 2 strong team Australian National University whilst Division 1

newcomers, Burns Club will play last season's State League champions Belwest Foxes.

One would expect Olympic to come through, but the second position is very much up for grabs.

Olympic coach Baz Giampaolo was not worried about the draw saying that "it's a settler for everyone and will be good to get a few extra games under our belt."

Finally, Pool 4 contains Canberra Deakin who start off with O'Connor Knights and the two Division 1 teams University of Canberra and Queanbeyan City.

Deakin are expected to romp home in this pool with second place most likely going to the students.

New Deakin coach Ian Shaw was real happy with the draw and, like Giampaolo, sees the initial three games as a good warm-up.

"Pool 4 is a good spot to be in," he said.

The quarter-finals are set down for Monday April 5th, but this may change owing to the clash with the Canberra Cosmos and their game against Sydney United that evening.

The semi-finals are to be played on Wednesday April 28th with the Final on Sunday May 16th.

Goals, fire and action in opening round

GOALS were a plenty in each of the eight Federation Cup matches last Sunday.

Nearly an average of six goals per match provided the small crowds with plenty of excitement.

There were no surprises in the first round with all seeded teams winning comfortably.

In Pool 1, current holders of the Cup, Belconnen United put six past fellow Division 1 team Gungahlin Juventus who could only manage a solitary score whilst four goals from Steve Lazzari helped Weston Creek to a 7-0 thrashing of White Eagles.

Pool 2 provided the closest results of the day with Monaro taking a 3-1 win over Capital City Suns into the next round and newly rebuilt Tuggeranong falling 1-3 to the less fancied Cooma.

Jamison Oval, the location for Pool 3, was where the scorers were on fire.

Newly promoted Burns Club beat Belwest Foxes 5-2 having also missed a penalty whilst Canberra Olympic blanked ANU 7-0 with Eli Salloum scoring a hat-trick.

The last grouping saw the only draw of the first round when Queanbeyan City lifted themselves in the last quarter to equalise whilst O'Connor Knights were no match for the powerful Canberra Deakin.

Pools 1 and 2 will now play on Tuesday night whilst Pools 3 and 4 are to play on Thursday evening.

The venues to be used are Deakin Oval and the Australian Institute of Sport.

Following this all teams are to return to the field for Round 3 next Sunday.

Berries find winning form

by Patrick Galloway

LAST Sunday night saw the well-drilled Canterbury Marrickville take on and defeat a struggling Leichhardt Tigers outfit two goals to nil.

Leichhardt's form over the past two weeks has been disappointing.

They've seen no less than five goals beat keeper Frank Mikuletic, while in terms of scoring over the same time period - the side has been goal-less.

The opening to the match saw both sides

CANTERBURY MARRICKVILLE 2 (Tsigolis, Talcevski)
LEICHHARDT TIGERS 0
 Venue: Henson Park
 Man of the Match: Jim Nikas CANTERBURY

home team scoreless.

Leichhardt relied heavily on a counter-attacking game, complimented by the nippy Hasan Kdouh and Chris Landsdown, who received good service from central midfielder David James and Jay Anderson, who tucked in behind the striking pair throughout most of the match.

The match was sparked

attack, with Jay Anderson providing a perfectly weighted through ball to Chris Landsdown, who drilled the ball into the feet of Steve Tolios from just inside the penalty area.

A superb save - one of three during the afternoon.

Both sides went to the break without a goal to their credit, indicative of

saw him brought down in the box after a David James tackle went wrong.

Michael Tsigolis stepped up to take the kick, calmly sending Mikuletic to his left and then stroking the ball straight down the middle.

Leichhardt tried in vain to get back in the match, with some penetrating runs from Hasan Kdouh, whose determination and

lent chance to extend their lead after Nikas cheekily pinched the ball from Leichhardt stopper Anthony Tesoro on the halfway line.

Nikas scooted away but was then run down by a red-faced Tesoro, who made up for his error with an excellent covering tackle.

Canterbury sat back a little in the closing twenty minutes, allowing Leichhardt a little more time to compose their attacks from the back.

More often than not Canterbury diffused the situation through some heavy tackling from captain Matt Percy.

Percy was rock solid throughout the match inspiring his troops to lift just that little bit more.

In the 88th minute they did.

Some good work on the right flank from second half substitute Zoran Illic saw the ball played in to a waiting Jane Talcevski, who turned and fired it into the bottom right hand corner, past a desperate Frank Mikuletic.

The final whistle saw an excellent win realised for the Berries, who consequently leap-frog 5th placed Leichhardt in their move up the ladder, while Leichhardt were left with plenty to think about.

Both teams next take the field this Sunday.

Canterbury will make the journey Wentworth Park for what stands to be a very interesting

clash with Eastern Suburbs, while Leichhardt return to Lambert Park for the first time in three weeks, looking to turn the tables against a very dangerous Ryde City outfit.

AND in other Super League action second played first in the tie of the round at Nineveh Field on Sunday night, with the newly promoted Fairfield Bulls playing Macarthur Rams.

The Bulls have caused some upsets already this season, and did so again in this Round 7 match, defeating the previously unbeaten Rams 3-2 in a thriller.

Matthew Borg gave the home side a 1-0 lead after 13 minutes, before David Reid finished well to make it 1-1.

Borg was then brought down in the penalty area after 25 minutes, but mindful that he missed a spot kick the week before against Eastern Suburbs, stepped aside to allow Jason Falzon to bury the ball into the back of the net.

Fairfield continued to dominate the game and deservedly made it 3-1 after 50 minutes, courtesy of a solo effort by Mark Hoenselaars.

Eric Williams pulled a goal back for the Rams with just seven minutes left, but despite some anxious moments the Bulls held on for a victory that moves them to equal first with their op-

ponents.

Ryde held Blacktown to a 1-1 draw at Cromer Park, Paul Watkins cancelling out an Aaron Holst strike.

There were high scoring games at Melita Stadium where Parramatta Eagles put five past bottom club Eastern Suburbs, and at Jensen Park where the home side Bankstown City Lions beat Sutherland 4-1.

The Eagles had Grant Bard to thank for a hat-trick against Eastern Suburbs, while Bankstown, despite losing Michael Hawrysiuk last Friday to Zoran Matic's Adelaide City, were too strong for the Sharks, who had Jeff Summers sent off on the half hour mark.

Bonnyrigg White Eagles inflicted the Central Coast's second 2-1 home defeating the last two matches in a game of two halves at Plum Park.

The White Eagles dominated the first half, scoring twice and creating many other chances that left even the Coasties coach Allan Bourke admitting: "They were awesome."

Goals in the first 22 minutes from Colin Luff and Javier Mancino made it look an easy outing for Bonnyrigg, but the Coasties hit back in the second period through a spectacular Aron Binskin goal. Despite creating some good chances to equalise, the Coasties couldn't snatch the elusive goal.



Fairfield Bulls Jason Falzon

tussling for domination - the quick footed Jim Nikas a constant source of trouble for the Leichhardt defence.

Nikas combined with the likes of Jane Talcevski and Nick Bosevski on countless occasions for some delightful one touch football outside the opposition box.

However, the boys from Leichhardt were up to the task and held the

into life in the 23rd minute, when the first real chance fell to Canterbury's Jim Nikas after a crafty one-two with Bosevski just outside the area.

The strike was parried by a diving Frank Mikuletic, who looked to have the shot covered from the outset.

From the corner Leichhardt cleared and launched a counter-

the lack of chances in the opening forty-five minutes.

However, the second half was to be a different story, with Leichhardt's hopes for a win disappearing about as quick as did the light at Henson Park.

Just six minutes after the break, after some good lead up play from Jane Talcevski, a bustling run from Simon Fedele

heart was obvious.

His tussle with Bryan Raeburn was a highlight, the pair having been spoken to on two occasions after some heated exchanges.

In the 59th minute the pair were both yellow carded from a linesman's report, which saw the substitution of the enigmatic Raeburn.

In the 66th minute Canterbury had an excel-

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION SUPER LEAGUE

ROUND 8

Saturday 27th March

Blacktown City Demons v Bonnyrigg White Eagles

Gabbie Stadium, 6:00pm

Central Coast v Bankstown City Lions

Plum Park, 6:00pm

Sutherland Sharks v Fairfield Bulls

Seymour Shaw Field, 7:00pm

Macarthur Rams v Parramatta Eagles

Lynwood Park, 7:00pm

Sunday 28th March

Eastern Suburbs v Canterbury-Marrickville

Wentworth Park, 3:00pm

Leichhardt Tigers v Ryde City

Lambert Park, 3:00pm

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Kemblawarra snatch Cup in Illawarra heat

by Bruce Campbell

IT WAS a day which was more suited to jumping into the nearby surf than playing football.

That is one of the problems of pre-season games although up for grabs last Sunday at Towradgi Park was the Corimal Leagues Club Cup, Illawarra's first trophy of the season.

Kemblawarra coach John Fleming summed it up nicely when he said: "The pitch was atrocious."

"It was really hard to play any good football there. The wind was also a lot stronger on the ground than it looked like from the sidelines.

"I think that we won because we handled the conditions better than Port."

Indeed. The pitch was a mess with bumps and divots, grass which was three inches too long and very poor line markings.

Yet, it was conditions that both sides had to adapt to and there is little doubt that it knocked the highly fancied Port Kembla off their stride.

With just two minutes on the clock Paul Gaffney put Kemblawarra in front with a cleverly chipped free kick on the edge of the Zebras box which beat both the wall and 'keeper Ben Harris.

At that point they looked in danger of running all over last year's beaten Grand Finalists. But gradually the Zebras pulled themselves back and actually finished the half well in control. In those last twenty five minutes Port's Paul Robaard was excellent, continually probing down the right and setting up a constant string of fine moves.

But it was from a neat one-two worked on the other side of the pitch that Port drew level; a neat move between Barila and Kampas ending when Port's new striker drove low under the advancing De Niro.

Port looked to have taken the lead when Pollari, standing in an offside position, collected the ball before racing thirty yards.

With referee Urtovskz waving play on the former Marconi defender couldn't believe his luck.

After rounding De Niro he calmly stroked the ball home only for the referee to change his mind and blow for the earlier infringement. It wasn't the only time that the man in the middle earned the ire of Port fans either.

In the second half he turned down a claim for a penalty after Bonetig had gone down in the box following a challenge by Sekulovski.

There had been

contact and the referee should have either booked Bonetig or awarded the penalty.

He did neither although just minutes before he had flashed the yellow card at Sekulovski when the Kemblawarra midfielder went down full-stretch to grab Bonetig around the ankles. Incredulously Sekulovski claimed a dive.

The second half was a lacklustre affair punctuated by occasional Port Kembla forays. Both sides used the interchange rule to avoid heat exhaustion but it had the added effect of robbing the game of any fluency.

Occasionally Bonetig showed fleeting glimpses of the pace and ball control which make him the most talented player in the league although

more apparent was Barila's (the Port Kembla version) reluctance to release a quick pass.

Port Kembla should have wrapped up this game well before a Morlando blunder allowed the less polished Kemblawarra to regain the lead. An innocuous corner kick from the left was somehow not cleared by the Port skipper and Coelho nipped through a goalmouth scramble to blast the ball past a stranded Harris.

Both Kampas and Stanizzo did enough to show that they will become Port's regular strike force although there must be doubts about the sieve-like central defence.

Polimenakos, O'Brien and Robaard looked the part, although in patches.

Harris was, as ever, brilliant in the air and safe with the rest but at the back

the doubts remain.

Morlando is simply too slow as a sweeper while Pollari doesn't contribute enough for a player of his ability and experience.

It could well be that O'Brien, who needs to be more involved in the game to be better utilised, could slip into the sweeper's role.

Kemblawarra were well served by Mathews who ran his socks off.

His matching yellow hair and boots might make him stand out for the media but it was his talent on the day which made him a deserved *Inside Soccer* Man of the Match.

Port Kembla coach Adrain Alston was clearly dismayed and his only comments after the match were: "No excuses, we lost but I am very disappointed."

KEMBLAWARRA 2 (Gaffney, Coelho)
PORT KEMBLA 1 (Kampas)
Venue: Towradgi Park
Man of the Match: Jason Mathews KEMBLAWARRA



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ROUND 1: Bert Bampton Knockout Cup

27 March (all matches 2.30pm kick off)
Shellharbour City v Highlands United
Shoalhaven City v Wollongong Olympic
University v Balgownie Rangers
Cringila Lions v Dapto
Bulli v Coniston Lions
Port Kembla v Fernhill
Kiama v Warilla Wanderers
Wollongong White Eagles v Bellambi
Helensburgh Thistle v Shellharbour United
Illawarra United v Picton Rangers
Tarrawanna v Oaks Flat Amateurs
Western Suburbs v Kemblawarra
Albion Park v South Coast United
Corimal leagues Club v St Elias Cedars
Lysaghts v Northern United

Keith Bond Oval
Ison Park
University Ground
Crehan Park
Balls Paddock
Wetherall Park
King Mickey
Unanderra Oval
Helensburgh
Ulster Avenue
Tarrawanna Oval
Harry Graham Park
Terry Reserve
Towradgi Park
Lysaghts



Looking for VPL survival

by Bert van Bedaf

WITH four clubs relegating to the State League this season to reduce the Victorian Premier League from 14 to 12 clubs, the pressure at the bottom has never been greater.

It is already telling heavily on Sunshine.

Rooted to bottom place after losing 3-2 to Altona Magic last Saturday, it is walking the plank and staring the deep black sea well and truly in the face.

Still, there are 18 more rounds to go and anything can happen, but the mood after the narrow loss was as dark as the wet night - and just as miserable.

Sunshine's fifth defeat arrived after last week's 6-1 humiliation at South Dandenong.

Once a proud national league club, the Georgies only tasted victory at home against Preston in

round 2.

Draws with Westvale and Springvale have given them only five points from eight starts, enough to make any die-hard supporter cry.

Sunshine pulled the emergency break a few weeks ago and parted company with player-coach Anthony Cassar.

Cassar wanted to stick with a youth-plan, but the Sunshine committee wanted to ensure survival in the premier league.

Cassar's successor, John Kanesoulis, another club stalwart, has taken over, also as a player-coach, and has the task in front of him.

Against Altona, Sunshine went from 1-0 up to 3-1 behind getting to 3-2 in injury time but proving unlucky with a few last-gasp efforts that went wide.

One attempt also hit the post.

Altona played with ten men for just over ten minutes when Zoran Petrevski was sent off in the 78th minute.

"We created opportunities, but we could not capitalise on them," Kanesoulis said afterwards, going over the match in his mind, wanting to look at the positives but finding few cheers.

"We need to put our chances away."

"If there are no results coming, it puts too much pressure on the players."

"We are a young team

SUNSHINE GEORGIES 2 ALTONA MAGIC 3

and maybe we're two or three experienced players short of being a competitive team.

"I'm disappointed that we lost, but on the other hand I'm proud of the boys that they didn't drop their heads."

"They fought it out. They showed character."

"It would have been good, if we'd salvaged a point away from home," he said.

Sunshine team manager Joe Mallia foreshadowed a strengthening of the troops.

Already on the bench was Allain Fabian, a student from France who recently joined the club.

Experienced Anthony Barbieri is expected from Bulleen.

Mallia said the club was also dealing with a striker from Darwin, Mark Katapoulos, who had a brief stint with the Gippsland Falcons and two years in the Greek second division.

Anthony Magnacca is expected to return from the Falcons in three weeks.

"We need to get out of the relegation zone," prominent Sunshine member and a former president Alf Zahra said.

On the up is Altona. They are weaving some of their former Magic again and working their way out of the relegation zone.

The triple champion parted company with their coach Chris Taylor after four matches and called on former Preston player and national league champion with the Melbourne Knights, Zoran Trajceviski, to revive the club's faltering fortunes.

Trajceviski coached Geelong to a championship in the lower leagues and knows how to win titles.

After a poor start, Altona is currently tapping a richer vein with the inclusion of Macedonian imports Tony Trifunov and Ace Vasilevski in midfield and Zlatko Risteviski as sweeper for the departed Dean Fak.

Sava Rusmir and Sash Becvinovski.

Add to that the return of striker Zoran Todorov-

ski and suddenly Altona is looking like a winning side again.

Trajceviski remained cautious.

"There is big pressure within the club to again reach the top of the premier league."

"I am optimistic, but we can't do it overnight."

"We should be ready in two or three weeks," Trajceviski said.

Altona fell behind after 34 minutes when Simon Miceviski tripped Alfonso Opazo inside the box and referee Rick Arturi pointed to the spot.

Opazo took the penalty himself and blasted it past Altona 'keeper Darren McGrath.

The lead was short-lived.

A Trajceviski cross five

minutes before halftime reached an unmarked Todorovski at the far post and the striker tapped home the equaliser.

Altona laid siege to the Sunshine goal in the second half and Georgies' keeper Steve Wardle prevented another trouncing with some excellent saves.

But he could not prevent Todorovski's second goal in the 50th minute, an emphatic header from an outstanding cross by Marjan Taseviski.

When Trifunov struck Altona's third goal on the volley from a corner by John Sapazovski in the 63rd minute, Sunshine's loss was on the cards.

But the Georgies redoubled their efforts and a ray of light appeared when Arturi sent off Petrevski in the 78th minute for a bad tackle on Joe De Bono.

Petrevski has only been on the pitch for 12 minutes, having replaced Todorovski in the 66th minute.

Altona nearly blew victory into the damp sky with sloppy defending. Marco Recchia scored Sunshine's second goal from a scramble.

John Tambouras shot wide and Vinnie De La Plaza hit the post.

But the Magic escaped the late scare, winning their third match in a row.

PRESTON came away from the Kingston Heath

Reserve with their biggest win of the season, beating the home team Bentleigh Greens 4-0 with two goals either side of the break.

The Lions spread the goals around.

Kamer Simsek, in the 25th minute, Tony Ujgunovski three minutes later, Warren Spink with a clever turn in the 52nd and Saso Markovski in the 69th put on the victory show.

But Preston 'keeper Lou Acevski was man of the match.

Even Preston coach Vlado Vanis agreed.

"Acevski was man of the match. He saved at least four good chances."

Last season Acevski also put in a cracking performance.

The Bentleigh encounter then finished in a 2-0 victory, with Acevski saving two penalties.

Bentleigh has only won once against the Lions: a meagre 1-0 harvest at home in 1997.

Some credit for Acevski's present saves must also go to Preston's specialist 'keeper coach Mustafa Pestolic.

A former first division guardsman in Bosnia, Croatia and Hong Kong, Pestolic is teaching his handycraft to all grades at Preston, from the juniors to Acevski, who is destined to go overseas at the end of the season.

"Already after a few weeks, we've seen great improvement," Vanis said.

Acevski's feats prevented Preston from being over-run in the first 20 minutes.

When in the 17th minute Gerry McDonagh laid off a free kick, Tom Karapatsos blasted the ball home through the wall, but Acevski blocked it with his legs with a reflex reaction.

Four minutes later in another set-piece, George Kalimeris fired off a rocket, which Acevski pushed for a corner with a spectacular dive.

The cruelty of a competitive sport came to the fore after 25 minutes when Preston pounced on the counter.

Tony Kovacic squared in defence, Saso Ogneovski took it forward

and placed a long through ball in the path of Simsek, who got a foot to it, chipping Bentleigh 'keeper Glenn Clarke with a ball that just dipped high into the net.

Three minutes later captain Chris Emsovski fired a shot that, Clarke didn't hold and Tony Ugnanovski slotted home the rebound, while Acevski denied John Papettas in the 33rd minute for his third save of the afternoon.

Spink showed all his experience in the 52nd minute when he accepted a square pass by Markovski in the box, turned Bentleigh captain Stelios Drakos and shot home for Preston's third goal to seal the match.

Acevski stood his ground three more times, denying Pino Cameron in the 62nd minute, Drakos in the 63rd and George Lenetis on the rebound.

Markovski twisted the knife just a little more, putting Preston's fourth goal in the net in the 69th minute, again on the counter as Bentleigh searched for a consolation goal that did not arrive.

Bentleigh coach Takis Svigos said Preston had been the better side.

"Up to the 25th minute it was an even game, but after Preston's two goals it was a different contest."

Horvat tipped to be a saint

by Bert van Bedaf

STEVE Rastocic resigned as coach of St Albans and former Melbourne Knights coach Vid Horvat is tipped to take over.

Rastocic is the third coach to resign this VPL season, after Chris Taylor at Altona and Anthony Cassar at Sunshine.

"Some players weren't giving a 100 per cent. The (2-1) loss to Westvale (round 7) was a great humiliation. We were leading 1-0," Rastocic said.

A former youth coach at the Melbourne Knights, Rastocic said he didn't want to continue under the present circumstances, although the club committee was happy to see him stay on.

"I didn't get the nudge from the committee. If anything, they're slightly upset that I left in the manner I did. But I didn't want to be anybody's dog's body," Rastocic said.

"There were a few players who were happy to stay in the comfort zone and not give their all. I don't need that hassle to be treated like a jackass. I hope people will respect me for walking out," he said.

St Albans team manager, Joe Jovic, has taken over as caretaker coach, but the word is that Horvat, who resigned as Knights coach during the national league season, is keen to take on the Saints job.

"We tried to come back in the second half, but overall we missed too many chances and you can't win if you don't score," Svigos said.

IN OTHER results, Altona East beat South Dandenong 2-0. St Albans drew 1-1 with Springvale Eagles, while leader Port Melbourne beat Fawkner 2-1, condemning the Blues to second bottom place.

IN ROUND 9, Altona Magic hosts South Dandenong on Saturday night.

On Sunday Preston is at home to Altona East, Port Melbourne against Bentleigh Greens, Springvale against Melbourne Raiders and Sunshine against St Albans.

On Monday night, Bulleen awaits Fawkner and Westvale plays Green Gully at the Gully Reserve.



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Penalties decide Breakers win

by Phil Dando

NEWCASTLE continued its incredible march toward a Top Six play-off place with a hard fought 1-0 victory over fellow contenders Carlton at Breaker Stadium on Friday.

Two penalties in the second half, one to each side, were the deciding factors in an exciting game with plenty at stake for both sides.

The Breakers took the lead in the 72nd minute after a penalty was given against Andrew Marth for holding onto Fouad Umlil as he attempted to round the goalkeeper.

Breakers skipper Shane Pryce stepped up to send Carlton keeper Dean Anastasiadis the wrong way from the penalty spot.

Carlton should have been back on level terms just two minutes from the end when it was awarded a penalty.

Breakers defender Todd McManus handled a goal-bound shot on the line for which he was sent from the field.

Normally Marth would take penalties for Carlton but to his coach's chagrin, striker Alex Moriera took the ball from him and opted to take the penalty himself but his feeble shot passed well wide of the post.

Carlton attacked desperately for the last couple of minutes but the Breakers, as they have done a number of times in recent weeks, held firm.

The first chance of the game fell to Carlton in

the fourth minute, Breakers' goalkeeper Bob Catlin had to tip a shot from Moreira over the bar and then he repeated the effort seconds later from a 25 metre shot from midfielder Con Anthopoulos.

In the 20th minute, it was Anastasiadis' turn to shine, diving to deflect a shot from Breakers' striker John Buonavoglia away for a corner.

On 34 minutes referee Brett Hugo played a good advantage after a high through ball was handballed by Carlton defender David Cervinski.

Breakers striker Umlil ran into the penalty area and pulled the ball back for Buonavoglia but once again a Carlton defender got in the way and deflected the shot away for

a corner.

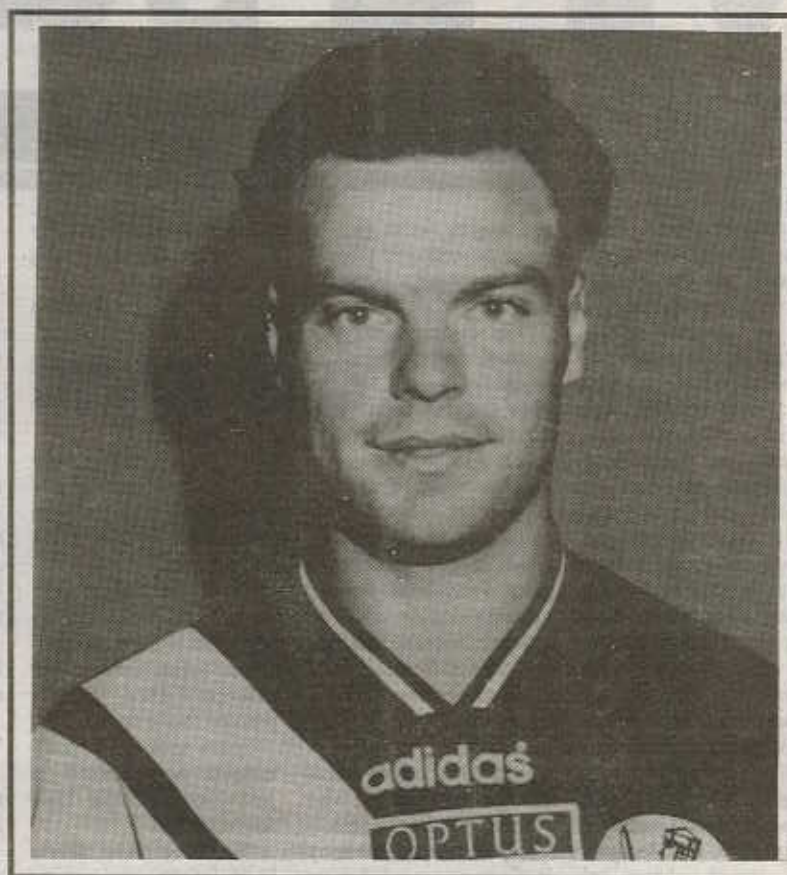
Right on halftime Marth had a 35 metre free kick beaten away by Catlin and then the same player missed a glorious chance to give his team the lead heading over from two metres from the resultant corner.

Just after halftime the lively Buonavoglia almost gave the Breakers the lead with a shot from just outside the penalty that beat Anastasiadis all ends up but cannoned back into play off the post.

The win keeps coach Lee Sterrey's slim hopes of taking the Newcastle side to an historic first-ever Top Six position.

The Breakers are on a helter skelter ride now with even the loss of just one game set to end their ambitious challenge.

And news of the proposed sale of the northern NSW club has gone ominously quiet in recent weeks.



Andrew Marth: missed chances which would have rescued at least a point

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS 1 (Pryce)
CARLTON 0
Venue: Breakers Stadium
Man of the Match: Shane Pryce NEWC

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Elias comes back to inspire Sharks

By Sam Lienert

Adelaide Sharks forward Elias Demourtzidis scored the lone goal in only his third NSL match to give the embattled club its first win for 1999 against Melbourne Knights at Hindmarsh Stadium on Friday night.

Demourtzidis was only recalled by coach Adrian Santrac from the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra for the match to allow the Sharks - badly undermanned by injury and suspension - to field a side.

The youngster's header in the 34th minute gave the club its first win in 13 matches, the last victory coming against Wollongong at the same

venue on December 20 last year.

The Sharks players have also had to battle constant speculation that the club is about to fold and have played without any match payments for the past six weeks.

But the injection of youth into the side seemed to provide a renewed spirit in the absence of injured players Derek Poimer, Frank Tibaldi and John Gibson and suspensions to Hamilton Thorp and Paul Souris.

The home side dominated the match from the start and should probably have scored in the 26th minute when Demourtzidis ran into an open goal but appeared to have his leg grabbed from behind by

Knights defender Paul Magdic, with referee Mark Shield failing to award a penalty.

Forward Aaron Westervelt was also called into the side for the match and applied plenty of early pressure while Richie Alagich and Alex Castro worked well with Demourtzidis, Alagich supplying the cross to set up the goal.

The Knights had few good players in a disappointing follow-up to their 3-0 victory against Canberra last week with striker Ice Kutlesovski probably Melbourne's best.

The win was the first for Santrac in his second stint at the club following the sacking of Manfred Schaefer.



Richie Alagich: top game for embattled Sharks

ADELAIDE SHARKS 1 (Demourtzidis)
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 0
Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium
Man of the Match: Richie Alagich ADH

Wolves slaughter Falcons 'shambles'

Wollongong Wolves adapted better to a rain-slickened pitch to beat Gippsland Falcons 3-0 in their national soccer league match in Morwell on Sunday.

The Gippsland team, decimated through injuries and suspensions, sorely lacked strike power.

"We only played with the bare essentials," said Gippsland coach Stuart Munro, referring to the absence of Marko Perinovic, Brian MacNicol, Jim Hopkins and Olyroo Levent Osman.

Despite the conditions the game was surprisingly fast and action-packed with some good opportunities created at both ends of the field.

The visitors were on the scoreboard at the 16th minute when Esala Masi angled a cross from the right to Ray-

"Our defence was in shambles" says Munro

mond Younis who headed home.

The Falcons responded by lifting their work rate with a good build up and shot by Sasha Becvinovski two minutes later.

Two further excellent chances went begging for the luckless home-side.

The Wolves' second goal was the result of a low cross by Anthony Surjan one minute before half-time.

Masi unmarked with space and time headed the ball past Falcons' keeper Bojo

Jevdjovic.

The second half was very much an end-to-end battle with both sides going close.

However, the greater aerial power and physical strength of Wollongong won through.

The visitors sealed the game at the 79th again through Younis.

"We can make excuses but our defence was in shambles," said Munro.

"We had 75 per cent of play in the first half but kept on making mistakes."

GIPPSLAND FALCONS 0
WOLLOGNONG WOLVES 2 (Younis 2, Masi)
Venue: Falcons Park
Man of the Match: Ray Younis WOLL

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE



Round 26: 26/28 March

Friday 26 March

Northern Spirit v South Melbourne
North Sydney Oval 7.30pm

Saturday 27 March

Brisbane Strikers v Canberra Cosmos
Suncorp Stadium 7.00pm

Sunday 28 March

Perth Glory v Sydney Olympic
Perth Oval 4.00pm

Carlton v Marconi Fairfield
Olympic Park 3.00pm

Wollongong Wolves v Adelaide Sharks
Brandon Park 6.30pm

Adelaide City v Gippsland Falcons
Hindmarsh Stadium 7.00pm

Melbourne Knights v Newcastle Breakers
Knights Stadium 3.00pm

Bye: Sydney United

NOTE: all information believed correct at time of going to press. Please check with daily press, your club or Soccer Australia for changes to scheduled kick offs.

ASF (02) 9380 6099, Adelaide City (08) 8336 9077, Adelaide Sharks (08) 8351 9866, Brisbane Strikers (07) 3252 5327, Carlton (03) 9389 6213, Canberra Cosmos (02) 6281 7981, Gippsland Falcons (03) 5134 5529, Marconi Fairfield (02) 9823 2222, Melbourne Knights (03) 9699 4188, Newcastle Breakers (02) 4951 2722, Northern Spirit (02) 9460 2187, Perth Glory (08) 9383 9911, South Melbourne (03) 9645 9797, Sydney Olympic (02) 9558 5355, Sydney United (02) 9823 6418, Wollongong City (02) 4226 3988

Roberts controls game for Cosmos upset

By Ted Simmons

SYDNEY Olympic reject Ivo de Jesus scored a major NSL upset when his second half goal gave Canberra Cosmos a 2-1 victory over Northern Spirit at North Sydney Oval on Friday night.

A vastly improved Canberra, who lost 1-0 to the Spirit in the first round, were faster, more aggressive and pressured the Sydney team into mistakes.

The Spirit had a chance to share the points one minute from time when substitute Paul Foster chipped into an open goal but defender Gordon Hunter headed the ball to safety off the line.

Canberra attacked from the start, forcing two cor-

ners in the opening minutes as Northern Spirit tried to counter.

Player-coach, Graham Arnold had selected his most attacking team of the season with Mark Rudan the only genuine defender at the back.

Despite the Canberra offensive, Spirit opened the score in the 22nd minute when a combined passing movement between Clayton Zane and Robbie Slater ended with Zane angling the ball into the back of the net.

As the Spirit launched a concentrated series of attacks, Canberra rallied eight minutes later when Paul Roberts lobbed the ball over keeper Paul Henderson and Anthony Magnacca followed through and pushed it

into the goal as the Spirit defence stood still awaiting an offside call.

The winner came in the 73rd minute when de Jesus broke down the left and kept going without opposition to convincingly beat Henderson.

"I expected the game to be competitive and a win for any points must be regarded as a big bonus," said Canberra coach Tom Sermanni.

"This game and the match against Carlton were the team's best two performances this season.

"We were dangerous in attack and the players were there when called on to defend."

The match was played at a hectic pace but Canberra gained the advantage when it challenged more successfully on 50-50 balls.

Referee Eddie Lennie kept a tight control as the frustrated Spirit tried to snatch the equaliser but allowed the game to flow, issuing only one yellow



Gordon Hunter: headed off the line to seal three precious points for Canberra

NORTHERN SPIRIT 1 (Zane)
CANBERRA COSMOS 2 (Magnacca, de Jesus)
Venue: North Sydney Oval
Man of the Match: Paul Roberts CANB

card in the final minutes of the match.

"It was a lack of effort and a lack of discipline with some players al-

ready thinking we were in the semi-finals," Arnold said.

"I trained the players hard this week to com-

pensate for last week's bye and maybe that had an effect on them."

The loss will make it more difficult for the

Spirit in their quest for the play-offs as they are in fifth position and still to face teams above them.

Franken defies Stallions

By Anthony Raineri

PERTH Glory severely dented Marconi's national soccer league semi-final aspirations after a 4-3 win at Marconi Stadium on Saturday.

Marconi went down gallantly after trailing within 10 minutes and then 3-1 and 4-2.

Stallions coach Frank Farina came out of retirement and came on late in the second half to try to inspire his players.

Marconi made the worst possible start by conceding two early goals.

In the 7th minute, Perth right back Robert Trajkovski charged upfield before crossing over the head of Marconi's last defender Marcus Phillips.

Con Boutsianis, who was running in on the left post behind Phillips, headed the ball down and it bounced over

the head of incredulous keeper Ante Covic and into the goal.

Three minutes later Trajkovski was on fire again down the right flank crossing to Michael Garcia who was too fast for the Marconi defence and slotted past Covic.

While even many Marconi fans were now predicting a thrashing, the players had other ideas and outplayed Perth for most of the half with some entertaining soccer.

Marconi's first half dominance was evident by their eight corner kicks to Perth's one.

The Stallions attacking play was rewarded nine minutes from the break when striker Francis Awaritefe latched onto a precise through ball from captain Brad Maloney to score his seventh goal of the season.

Kris Trajanovski and Brendan Renaud had certain goals

foiled by outstanding saves from Perth's former Socceroo keeper Tony Franken.

Marconi continued the furious pace in the second half and should have had a goal when Awaritefe laid the ball to the rampaging Maloney whose shot was spectacularly palmed to safety by Franken.

Less than 30 seconds later, midfielder Marcus Phillips in his own half slipped while trying to control a long ball.

Bobby Despotovski picked up the loose ball, raced to the Marconi goal, played it left to the unmarked Boutsianis who calmly chipped Covic.

In the 76th minute, Marconi's Kris Trajanovski breathed life in the match by scoring from 20m with his shot hitting the left post and bouncing into the goal.

The match was put beyond doubt in the 88th minute when Marconi's Robbie Hooker scored an own goal although Awaritefe snared a well-deserved consolation goal several minutes into injury time.



Francis Awaritefe: scored two but it wasn't enough

MARCONI 3 (Awaritefe 2, Trajanovski)
PERTH GLORY 4 (Boutsianis 2, Garcia, own goal)
Venue: Marconi Stadium
Man of the Match: Tony Franken PRTH

Veart snatches last gasp draw at Bob Jane

by Alan Clark

ADELAIDE City snatched a last minute draw at Bob Jane Stadium on Sunday against league leaders South Melbourne, despite playing a man short from the 30th minute.

Angelo Costanzo was dismissed after a last defender foul tackle on Michael Curcija just outside the penalty area, with the Olyroo in a strong shooting position.

The send-off was the reason behind Zebra's coach Zoran Matic deciding not to appear at the post-game media conference in case he would say something that would get him into trouble with the authorities.

He gave the waiting

**SOUTH MELBOURNE 1 (Curcija)
ADELAIDE CITY 1 (Veart)
Venue: Bob Jane Stadium
Man of the Match: Vaughan Coveny SMEL**



Vaughan Coveny: Man of the Match performance

press a short illustration of his anger directed at referee Simon Micallef, but as his comments were not given for publication, *Inside Soccer* has refrained from publishing

them.

By the time Costanzo trudged off the rain-soaked pitch, South had already taken the lead.

Curcija had netted from close-in after an uncharacteristically indecisive play from defensive veteran Milan Ivanovic.

Ivanovic delayed in possession deep in his own half and found the ball snapped away from him by Vaughan Coveny.

Coveny crossed, Paul Trimboli either missed an attempt at a header or heard a call and allowed it to continue its flight to where Curcija blasted home from six yards.

Given the expected keen nature of the contest, the feeling was a solitary goal would settle things, and when Costanzo made his premature exit, that belief was more strongly held.

Goran Lozanovski - coming off his game-winning performance in last week's derby against Carlton - put his dead-ball skills into action with a stunning 35 metre strike which cannoned off the bar and back into play midway through the first half, but there were to be too few goal-threatening moments to keep the crowd entertained.

It was more a dour struggle for dominance which South - a player to the good - should have won, but didn't.

Fausto De Amicis, steady on his feet despite the hazardous conditions, had the better of Damian Mori and Carl Veart for almost all of the game, but when Mori is in the opposition's line-up, almost all of the game is never good enough.

Adelaide pressed strongly at the beginning of the second half, but South had successfully weathered that as previ-

ously.

Travis Dodd and Veart were both on the end of promising attacks early in the half, and Vaughan Coveny and, surprisingly for he is a principally a defender, Robert Liparoti had equally good counters for South shortly after.

The second goal just wouldn't come for the reigning champions.

Paul Trimboli came close to setting it up 77 minutes in after being fed by Coveny wide on the right, then playing a driven cross where Curcija who looked certain to score, only to see Jason Petkovic getting a touch and deflecting it over.

With the crowd heading for the Bob Jane exits, Mori and Veart drew deep within their energy reserves to launch what must have seemed Adelaide City's last attempt one minute from time.

Veart was put through after a typically powerful

run by Mori, who has excellent close control at speed, but South Melbourne keeper Michael Petkovic was bravely out to save at Veart's feet.

Scarcely a minute later the same duo was to gain the goal their team deserved given the enterprise it had displayed in this showdown of past champions.

"I thought we played well," said South coach Angie Postecoglou after the game.

"They were down to ten men, we were pushing it around, we were creating chances. If we had scored a second goal the game was over.

"We didn't, and that always gives the opposition a chance.

"Apart from disappointment at throwing away the three points, I'll probably get up tomorrow morning, look at the tape of the game, and say we played pretty well.

"If we keep playing like that, then we'll be fine."

United stand-ins step up for four

By Ted Simmons

SYDNEY United coach David Mitchell's striking problems eased when his team found range with a 4-3 National Soccer League win over Brisbane Strikers at the United Sports Centre on Sunday.

Mitchell's key strikers Mile Sterjovski and Joel Griffiths are overseas with the Young Socceroos but the team stepped up in style.

But it was a battle against Brisbane which fought doggedly through the second half forcing United into late and sometimes desperate clearances.

"It was always going to be a difficult game and it was not pretty," said Mitchell.

"We missed the young boys but I thought it was a fantastic scoring effort, particularly the play by Danny Townsend and the final goal by Steve Berry."

The livewire Townsend used his pace to outrun the Brisbane defence and showed skill

and determination considering he was previously playing in the New South Wales State League.

Two defensive lapses after a pair of goals in two minutes cost United a comfortable first half lead.

Walter Ardone finished off an eighth minute passing move between Townsend and Jacob Burns to go to a quick lead.

Defender David Barrett scored his second goal for the season two minutes later from a Peter Bennett corner.

Striker Steve Berry back headed the ball towards Barrett 12 metres from the goal and his return header floated into the net.

Brisbane pushed into attack with a Jeromy Harris header cleared off the line by keeper Mike Gibson and the warning signals were flying for the United defence.

On the half hour Kasey Wehrman's shot deflected off Velimir Kupresak and Harris

slammed the loose ball past Gibson to open Brisbane's account.

United ran into further problems one minute before the break when Stuart McLaren made a left side run and found space to cross goalwards.

The waiting and unmarked Reece Tollenare attempted to step over the ball but it flicked off his heel and rolled inside to level the scores.

United quickly regained the lead early in the second half with a magnificent 25 metre free kick from Ardone which Burns neatly headed past keeper Clint Bolton.

Berry scored the goal of the match in the 70th minute when Michael Santalab pushed a deep cross from the left and the young striker rose high to head the ball inside the far post from a position almost on the line.

The final goal was a simple tap in for McLaren seven minutes later from a Wehrman cross.

"We just can't give away soft goals. We've thrown away points to so many teams mostly from a lack of experience," said Brisbane coach John Kosmina.



Jacob Burns: on the scoresheet in seven goal thriller

**SYDNEY UNITED 4 (Ardone, Barrett, Burns, Berry)
BRISBANE STRIKERS 3 (Harris, Tollenare, McLaren)
Venue: Edensor Park
Man of the Match: Danny Townsend SUTD**

SCOREBOARD

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



RAM SPORTS

INTERNATIONAL

FRIENDLY CHALLENGE

17 March
Heracles 0 Australia Under 20s 2
Griffiths 6
Bresciano 51
AUSTRALIA: Breaden, Bosnar, Colosimo (Wearne 68), Byrnes, Invincible, Wilson, Emerton, Terminello (Culina 53), Sterjovski, Bresciano, Griffiths (Care 78), Cunico
19 March
FC Twente 0 Australia Under 20s 2
Emerton 11
Maisano 58
AUSTRALIA: Breaden (Wearne 85), Byrnes, Cunico, Emerton, Wilson (Terminello 45), Culina, Grella, Bresciano (Invincible 84), Maisano, Sterjovski (Care 42)

ALGARVE CUP (Women's Challenge)

17 March
Portugal 0 Australia 0
AUSTRALIA: Butland, Gegenhuber, Bartlett, Tann-Darby (Hepperlin 56), Peters, Revell (Murray 62), Youman, Salisbury (Black 56), Golebiowski, Iannotta, Casagrande
19 March
China 2 Australia 0
AUSTRALIA: Kitching, Bartlett (Hepperlin 73), Starr (Salisbury 58), Tann-Darby, Cooper, Black (Golebiowski 68), Youman, Peters (Gegenhuber 73), Casagrande (Revell 58), Ferguson, Murray
21 March
Sweden 1 Australia 1*
Murray

* Australia won in a penalty shoot-out.
AUSTRALIA: Butland, Tann-Darby, Starr (Black 66), Bartlett, Cooper, Golebiowski (Ferguson 80), Peters, Youman (Cassafante 74, Ravell 87), Iannotta, Murray, Salisbury.

ACTSF

ACTSF FEDERATION CUP

21 March
Pool 1
Belconnen United 6 Juventus 1
Weston Creek 7 White Eagles 0
Pool 2
Monaro 3 Capital City Suns 1
Cooma 3 Tuggeranong 1
Pool 3
Canberra Olympic 7 ANU 0
Burns Club 5 Belwest Foxes 2
Pool 4
Uni of Canberra 2 Queanbeyan City 2
Canberra Deakin 5 O'Connor Knights 1

NSWSF

SUPER LEAGUE: First Grade, Round 7

March 20/21
Central Coast 1 Bonnyrigg 2
Binstrin 65 Luff 5
Fairfield Bulls 3 Mancino 22
Borg 14 Macarthur Rams 2
Falzon 27 Reid 20
Hoenselaars 51 Williams 83
Canterbury 2 Leichhardt Tigers 0
Mendes 51
Christoforidas 88
Bankstown City 4 Sutherland Sharks 1
Issa 19, 26 Hobbs 74
Todorovski 40
own goal 73
Parramatta Eagles
Ryde City 1
Watkins 45

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Macarthur Rams	7	5	1	1	16	9	16
Fairfield Bulls	7	5	1	1	15	10	16
Blacktown City	7	4	1	2	12	6	13
Bonnyrigg	7	4	1	2	17	12	13
Bankstown City	7	4	0	3	17	13	12
Canterbury	7	3	2	2	14	9	11
Leichhardt Tigers	7	3	1	3	12	10	10
Parramatta Eagles	6	2	1	3	5	8	7
Central Coast	7	2	1	4	8	14	7
Ryde City	7	1	3	3	10	13	6
Sutherland Sharks	7	1	1	5	8	19	4
Eastern Suburbs	6	0	1	5	6	17	1

ERICSSON CUP 1998/99

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 South Melbourne	23	14	6	3	44	23	48
2 Sydney United	24	15	3	6	45	31	48
3 Perth Glory	23	14	3	6	51	28	45
4 Adelaide City	23	11	5	7	37	24	38
5 Sydney Olympic	23	11	5	7	38	27	38
6 Northern Spirit	23	12	2	9	31	31	38
7 Marconi Fairfield	23	10	3	10	42	44	33
8 Newcastle Breakers	23	9	6	8	23	28	33
9 Brisbane Strikers	23	9	5	9	33	38	32
10 Carlton	24	9	4	11	42	38	32
11 Wollongong City	23	7	6	10	35	39	27
12 Adelaide Sharks	23	6	6	11	32	37	24
13 Melbourne Knights	23	5	5	13	26	36	20
14 Gippsland Falcons	23	5	5	13	14	41	20
15 Canberra Cosmos	24	4	2	18	19	47	14

SUPER LEAGUE: Reserve Grade, Round 7

March 20/21
Central Coast 1 Bonnyrigg 0
Fairfield Bulls 1 Macarthur Rams 1
Canterbury 1 Leichhardt Tigers 0
Bankstown City 1 Sutherland Sharks 2
Parramatta Eagles 3 Eastern Suburbs 1
Ryde City 4 Blacktown City 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Parramatta Eagles	7	4	2	1	17	10	14
Canterbury	7	4	1	2	13	6	13
Macarthur	7	4	1	2	15	10	13
Bonnyrigg WE	7	4	0	3	10	5	12
Central Coast	7	3	2	2	11	12	11
Ryde City	7	3	1	3	16	11	10
Blacktown	7	3	1	3	14	12	10
Sutherland	7	3	1	3	9	12	10
Fairfield Bulls	7	3	1	3	8	12	10
Eastern Suburbs	7	3	0	4	8	11	9
Bankstown City	7	1	1	5	7	16	4
Leichhardt	7	1	1	5	7	16	4

SUPER LEAGUE: Youth Grade, Round 7

March 20/21
Central Coast 2 Bonnyrigg 0
Fairfield Bulls 3 Macarthur Rams 1
Canterbury 3 Leichhardt Tigers 0
Bankstown City 2 Sutherland Sharks 1
Parramatta Eagles 3 Eastern Suburbs 3
Ryde City 0 Blacktown City 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Macarthur Rams	7	5	0	2	11	6	15
Canterbury	7	4	2	1	15	10	14
Parramatta	7	4	1	2	24	8	13
Eastern Suburbs	7	4	1	2	14	9	13
Blacktown City	7	3	3	1	12	8	12
Leichhardt Tigers	7	3	2	2	6	6	11
Central Coast	7	3	1	3	11	10	10
Bankstown City	7	3	0	4	13	17	9
Ryde City	7	2	1	4	7	11	7
Bonnyrigg	7	1	2	4	5	11	5
Sutherland	7	1	2	4	5	12	5
Fairfield Bulls	7	1	1	5	6	21	4

NSWSF SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE:

UNDER 13:
Leichhardt Tigers 3 Sydney United 0
Gladesville Hornsby 2 Parramatta Eagles 2
Eastern Suburbs 0 Macarthur Rams 0
Southern Districts 3 Marconi Fairfield 1
Newcastle Breakers 5 Sutherland Sharks 1
Central Coast 2 Manly Warringah 0
Blacktown City 5 Southern Branch 0
Wollongong Wolves 2 Sydney Olympic 1
UNDER 14:
Sydney United 1 Leichhardt Tigers 0
Gladesville Hornsby 2 Parramatta Eagles 2
Eastern Suburbs 2 Macarthur Rams 1
Southern Districts 4 Marconi Fairfield 2
Newcastle Breakers 2 Sutherland Sharks 0
Central Coast 1 Manly Warringah 0
Southern Branch 2 Blacktown City 1
Wollongong Wolves 1 Sydney Olympic 0
UNDER 15:
Leichhardt Tigers 2 Sydney United 1
Gladesville Hornsby 6 Parramatta Eagles 0
Eastern Suburbs 3 Macarthur Rams 1

Marconi Fairfield 3
Sutherland Sharks 4
Manly Warringah 3
Blacktown City 7
Wollongong Wolves 3
UNDER 16:
Sydney United 3
Gladesville Hornsby 1
Eastern Suburbs 1
Marconi Fairfield 4
Newcastle Breakers 2
Manly Warringah 2
Blacktown City 6
Wollongong Wolves 1
DIV ONE:
UNDER 13:
Illawarra Lions 12
Bankstown Association 5
Ryde City 1
AC United 2

Southern Districts 1
Newcastle Breakers 0
Central Coast 1
Southern Branch 0
Sydney Olympic 0
Leichhardt Tigers 2
Parramatta Eagles 0
Macarthur Rams 0
Southern Districts 3
Sutherland Sharks 0
Central Coast 1
Southern Branch 1
Sydney Olympic 1

Blacktown Association 2
St George 10
Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1
UNDER 14:
Illawarra Lions 2
Canterbury Association 2
Ryde City 3
AC United 1
Rockdale City Suns 1
St George 5
Bonnyrigg Eagles 3
UNDER 15:
Illawarra Lions 4
Canterbury 0
Bankstown Assoc 0
Ryde City 0
Penrith Panthers 3
AC United 2
Blacktown Association 7
Rockdale City Suns 0
Fairfield Bulls 2
Hills United 1
UNDER 16:
Illawarra Lions 5
Canterbury 0
Bankstown Association 2
Canterbury Assoc 1
Ryde City 2
AC United 1
Penrith Panthers 0
Blacktown Association 2
Rockdale City Suns 0
Fairfield Bulls 2
St George 1
Hills United 2
Bonnyrigg Eagles 1
DIV TWO:
UNDER 13:
Nepean Association 4
Granville Association 4
Ku-Ring-Gai Assoc 1
Mt Pritchard 2
Camden Tigers 2
Hawkesbury City 0
Parramatta City 0
Moorebank Sports 4
UNDER 14:
Nepean Association 2
Macquarie Sports 0
Granville Association 1
Mt Pritchard 2
Camden Tigers 0
Hawkesbury City 4
Parramatta City 6
Moorebank Sports 3
UNDER 15:
Nepean Association 3
Macquarie Sports 0
Granville Association 2
Mt Pritchard 3
Camden Tigers 0
Hawkesbury City 0
Moorebank Sports 0

Blacktown Association 2
St George 10
Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1
UNDER 14:
Illawarra Lions 2
Canterbury 0
Bankstown Assoc 0
Ryde City 0
Penrith Panthers 3
AC United 2
Blacktown Association 7
Rockdale City Suns 0
Fairfield Bulls 2
Hills United 1
UNDER 16:
Illawarra Lions 5
Canterbury 0
Bankstown Association 2
Canterbury Assoc 1
Ryde City 2
AC United 1
Penrith Panthers 0
Blacktown Association 2
Rockdale City Suns 0
Fairfield Bulls 2
St George 1
Hills United 2
Bonnyrigg Eagles 1
DIV TWO:
UNDER 13:
Nepean Association 4
Granville Association 4
Ku-Ring-Gai Assoc 1
Mt Pritchard 2
Camden Tigers 2
Hawkesbury City 0
Parramatta City 0
Moorebank Sports 4
UNDER 14:
Nepean Association 2
Macquarie Sports 0
Granville Association 1
Mt Pritchard 2
Camden Tigers 0
Hawkesbury City 4
Parramatta City 6
Moorebank Sports 3
UNDER 15:
Nepean Association 3
Macquarie Sports 0
Granville Association 2
Mt Pritchard 3
Camden Tigers 0
Hawkesbury City 0
Moorebank Sports 0

Blacktown Association 2
St George 10
Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1
UNDER 14:
Illawarra Lions 2
Canterbury 0
Bankstown Assoc 0
Ryde City 0
Penrith Panthers 3
AC United 2
Blacktown Association 7
Rockdale City Suns 0
Fairfield Bulls 2
Hills United 1
UNDER 16:
Illawarra Lions 5
Canterbury 0
Bankstown Association 2
Canterbury Assoc 1
Ryde City 2
AC United 1
Penrith Panthers 0
Blacktown Association 2
Rockdale City Suns 0
Fairfield Bulls 2
St George 1
Hills United 2
Bonnyrigg Eagles 1
DIV TWO:
UNDER 13:
Nepean Association 4
Granville Association 4
Ku-Ring-Gai Assoc 1
Mt Pritchard 2
Camden Tigers 2
Hawkesbury City 0
Parramatta City 0
Moorebank Sports 4
UNDER 14:
Nepean Association 2
Macquarie Sports 0
Granville Association 1
Mt Pritchard 2
Camden Tigers 0
Hawkesbury City 4
Parramatta City 6
Moorebank Sports 3
UNDER 15:
Nepean Association 3
Macquarie Sports 0
Granville Association 2
Mt Pritchard 3
Camden Tigers 0
Hawkesbury City 0
Moorebank Sports 0

Blacktown Association 2
St George 10
Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1
UNDER 14:
Illawarra Lions 2
Canterbury 0
Bankstown Assoc 0
Ryde City 0
Penrith Panthers 3
AC United 2
Blacktown Association 7
Rockdale City Suns 0
Fairfield Bulls 2
Hills United 1
UNDER 16:
Illawarra Lions 5
Canterbury 0
Bankstown Association 2
Canterbury Assoc 1
Ryde City 2
AC United 1
Penrith Panthers 0
Blacktown Association 2
Rockdale City Suns 0
Fairfield Bulls 2
St George 1
Hills United 2
Bonnyrigg Eagles 1
DIV TWO:
UNDER 13:
Nepean Association 4
Granville Association 4
Ku-Ring-Gai Assoc 1
Mt Pritchard 2
Camden Tigers 2
Hawkesbury City 0
Parramatta City 0
Moorebank Sports 4
UNDER 14:
Nepean Association 2
Macquarie Sports 0
Granville Association 1
Mt Pritchard 2
Camden Tigers 0
Hawkesbury City 4
Parramatta City 6
Moorebank Sports 3
UNDER 15:
Nepean Association 3
Macquarie Sports 0
Granville Association 2
Mt Pritchard 3
Camden Tigers 0
Hawkesbury City 0
Moorebank Sports 0

Blacktown Association 2
St George 10
Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1
UNDER 14:
Illawarra Lions 2
Canterbury 0
Bankstown Assoc 0
Ryde City 0
Penrith Panthers 3
AC United 2
Blacktown Association 7
Rockdale City Suns 0
Fairfield Bulls 2
Hills United 1
UNDER 16:
Illawarra Lions 5
Canterbury 0
Bankstown Association 2
Canterbury Assoc 1
Ryde City 2
AC United 1
Penrith Panthers 0
Blacktown Association 2
Rockdale City Suns 0
Fairfield Bulls 2
St George 1
Hills United 2
Bonnyrigg Eagles 1
DIV TWO:
UNDER 13:
Nepean Association 4
Granville Association 4
Ku-Ring-Gai Assoc 1
Mt Pritchard 2
Camden Tigers 2
Hawkesbury City 0
Parramatta City 0
Moorebank Sports 4
UNDER 14:
Nepean Association 2
Macquarie Sports 0
Granville Association 1
Mt Pritchard 2
Camden Tigers 0
Hawkesbury City 4
Parramatta City 6
Moorebank Sports 3
UNDER 15:
Nepean Association 3
Macquarie Sports 0
Granville Association 2
Mt Pritchard 3
Camden Tigers 0
Hawkesbury City 0
Moorebank Sports 0

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE

Northern Division	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
AIS	23	17	5	1	85	14	56
Sydney Olympic	22	16	2	4	71	20	50
Marconi Fairfield	20	14	5	1	71	16	47
Newcastle Breakers	22	14	4	4	52	23	46
Northern Spirit	22	14	2	6	42	21	44
NSWIS	20	13	3	4	49	19	42
Wollongong Wolves	21	12	2	7	54	25	38
QAS	21	11	1	9	56	36	34
Sydney United	22	8	4	10	40	37	28
Marconi Fairfield Colts	20	5	4	11	19	34	19
ACTAS	21	4	3	14	29	55	15
Sydney United Colts	21	4	1	16	21	66	13
Northern Spirit Colts	21	3	3	15	19	81	12
Sydney Olympic Academy	22	1	4	17	15	87	7
Wollongong Wolves Colts	22	1	3	18	14	10	6
Southern Division	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Carlton	18	12	3	3	49	20	39
South Melbourne	19	11	3	5	33	19	36
VIS	16	8	4	4	32	26	28
Melbourne Knights	19	8	3	8	37	35	27
Gippsland Falcons	18	7	2	9	31	30	23
Bulleen Inter Kings	16	6	2	8	22	30	20
Albury Wodonga	18	1	1	16	18	62	4

UNDER 16:
Nepean Association 4
Granville Association 2
Mt Pritchard 1
Camden Tigers 4
Mt Druitt Town 3
Parramatta City 11
Macquarie Sports 0
CSI Schofields 1
Ku-Ring-Gai Assoc 0
Hadjuk Wanderers 0
Hawkesbury City 1
Moorebank Sports 1

VICTORIA

VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE: Firsts

March 20/21: Round 8
Altona Magic 3
Todorovski 2
Trifonov
South Dandenong 0
St Albans Saints 1
Kelic
Fawkner Blues 1
Nastevski
Bentleigh Greens 0
Sunshine Georgies 2
Opaza
Recchia
Altona East 2
Angelos 2
Springvale 1
Styczen
Port Melbourne 2
Kakos
Caimakamis
Preston Lions 4
Simsek
Ujgunovski
Spink
Markovski

Playing Monday 22 March
Melbourne Raiders v Westvale
Green Gully v Bulleen Inter Kings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Port Melbourne	8	7	1	0	22	5	22
Green Gully	7	5	1	1	17	12	16
Preston Lions	8	5	0	3	17	8	15
Bentleigh Greens	8	3	3	2	15	10	12
Bulleen Inter Kings	7	3	3	1	11	6	12
Melbourne Raiders	7	3	2	2	10	8	11
Altona East	8	3	2	3	9	13	11
Altona Magic	8	3	1	4	10	21	10
South Dandenong	8	2	3	3	12	10	9
St Albans	8	2	2	4	9	15	8
Springvale	8	1	3	4	9	12	6
Westvale	7	1	3	3	10	17	6
Fawkner	8	1	2	5	10	13	5
Sunshine	8	1	2	5	8	19	5

VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE: Reserves

March 20/21: Round 8
Altona Magic 3
South Dandenong 3
St Albans Saints 4
Fawkner Blues 3
Bentleigh Greens 2
Playing Monday 22 March
Melbourne Raiders v Westvale
Green Gully v Bulleen Inter Kings
Sunshine Georgies 2
Altona East 2
Springvale 1
Port Melbourne 1
Preston Lions 2

DIVISION 1: First Grade

20 March
Heidelberg United 2
Oakleigh 2
21 March
Springvale City 1
Northcote City 1
Melbourne City 2
Lalor United 3
North Geelong Warriors 0
DIVISION 1: Reserve Grade
Western Suburbs 0
Kingston City 0
Doncaster Rovers 0
Westgate 2
Werribee City 1
Yarraville Glory 0
Richmond 1

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SCOREBOARD

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19 March
Heidelberg United 2 Western Suburbs 2
Oakleigh 2 Kingston City 2
21 March
Springvale City 1 Doncaster Rovers 2
Northcote City 2 Westgate 1
Melbourne City 3 Werribee City 1
Lalor United 5 Yarraville Glory 0
North Geelong Warriors Richmond
DIVISION 2: First Grade
20 March
Satellite City 1 Frankston Strikers 1
East Richmond 0 Altona City 0
Essendon Diamond 2 Valley United 0
Frankston Pines 0 Cranbourne 0
Thomastown 1 Ringwood City 0
Knox City 2 Old Scotch Waverley 0

21 March
Croydon City 0 Geelong 2
DIVISION 2: Reserve Grade
20 March
Satellite City 2 Frankston Strikers 4
East Richmond 2 Altona City 0
Essendon Diamond 2 Valley United 0
Frankston Pines 3 Cranbourne 1
Thomastown 0 Ringwood City 1
Knox City 4 Old Scotch Waverley 2
21 March
Croydon City 3 Geelong 5
DIVISION 3: First Grade

20 March
Moreland City 1 Stonnington City 4
Laverton Park 2 South Springvale 2
Banyule City 3 Williamstown 4
North Coburg 3 South Wantirna 1
Mooroolbark 1 Keilor Park 0
Broadmeadows City 2 Pascoe Vale 0
21 March
Bell Park 1 Fitzroy City 3
DIVISION 3: Reserve Grade
20 March
Moreland City 3 Stonnington City 1
Laverton Park 3 South Springvale 1
Banyule City 4 Williamstown 1
North Coburg 0 South Wantirna 3
Mooroolbark 1 Keilor Park 3
Broadmeadows City 2 Pascoe Vale 1
21 March
Bell Park 0 Fitzroy City 3

DIVISION 4: First Grade
20 March
Clifton Hill United 2 Lyndale United 2
Sunbury United 0 Seaford United 1
Croxtton Park 2 Sandringham City 2
Nunawading City 0 Chelsea 1
Langwarrin 3 Melton 1
21 March
Geelong Rangers 3 Corio 1
Keysborough v Lalor (5 April)
DIVISION 4: Reserve Grade
20 March
Clifton Hill United 1 Lyndale United 5
Sunbury United 3 Seaford United 1
Croxtton Park 2 Sandringham City 5
Nunawading City 1 Chelsea 1
Langwarrin 0 Melton 1
21 March
Geelong Rangers 2 Corio 0
Keysborough v Lalor (5 April)

QUEENSLAND

QUEENSLAND PREMIER LEAGUE

March 20/21: Round 5

Taringa Rovers 1 Toowoomba United 0
Bundaberg Waves 2 Brisbane Lions 3
Wynnum 3 Gold Coast 1
Rochdale Rovers 2 Ipswich Knights 0

Mt Gravatt v Brisbane City washed out

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brisbane Lions	5	5	0	0	16	8	15
Rochdale Rovers	5	4	0	1	17	4	12
Taringa Rovers	5	3	0	2	9	3	9
Brisbane City	4	3	0	1	9	6	9
Bundaberg Waves	5	2	1	2	9	9	7
Gold Coast	5	2	1	2	9	14	7
Ipswich Knights	5	2	0	3	6	9	6
Wynnum	5	1	0	4	6	13	3
Mount Gravatt	4	0	2	2	6	9	2
Toowoomba United	5	0	0	5	3	15	0

DIVISION 1 NORTH

Albany Creek 6 The Gap 3
Mitchelton 2 Uni of Qld 3
Eastern Suburbs 3 North Star 1
Grange Thistle 2 Newmarket 3
Pine Rivers: Bye

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Albany Creek	4	4	0	0	12	5	12
Eastern Suburbs	4	3	1	0	8	4	10
North Star	4	3	0	1	14	8	9
Uni Qld	5	2	1	2	9	10	7
Newmarket	4	2	0	2	10	9	6
Pine Rivers	3	1	1	1	5	4	4
Mitchelton	4	1	0	3	5	8	3
Grange Thistle	5	0	2	3	7	13	2
The Gap	5	0	1	4	13	22	1

DIVISION 1 SOUTH

Olympic United 1 Souths United 1
Slacks Creek 1 Beenleigh 1
Redlands United v Capalaba washed out
Acacia Ridge v Rocklea United washed out
Inala City: bye

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rocklea United	4	4	0	0	19	8	12
Capalaba	3	3	0	0	6	0	9
Slacks Creek	5	2	1	2	10	8	7
Redlands United	3	1	1	1	7	9	4
Inala City	4	1	1	2	8	12	4
Olympic United	3	1	0	2	5	7	3
Acacia Ridge	4	0	2	2	4	11	2
Beenleigh	4	0	1	3	3	14	1

ILLAWARRA

CORRIMAL LEAGUES CLUB CUP:

Final: Sunday 21 March

Kemblawarra 2 Port Kembla 1
Gaffney Kampas
Ceolho

Venue: Towradgi Park

Crowd: 1,000

Referee: Peter Urtovszkz

Port: Harris, Robaard, Pollari, Cazzoli, Morlando, Bonetig, Polimenakos, O'Brien, Kampas, Stanizzo, Barila. Subs: Glancy, Ferri, Duncan, Carusi, Della Iacoro. Coach: Adrian Alston
"Warra: De Niro, Di Fazzio, Mathews, Cuda, Barila, Higgs, Gaffney, Sekulovski, Coelho, Gazzoli, Jovonski. Subs: Baz, Curvski, Spencer, Bosevski, Macesiu. Coach: John Fleming
* Player Interchange used.

3rd/4th place playoff

Shellharbour City 3 Bulli 2
Hale Hudson 2
Dorrien 2

corporate games

Pool Play Saturday 13 March

Pool 1

GIO Football Woolies Utd 0-1

Avengers Sporting PS 2-0

GIO Football Avengers 4-1

Woolies Utd Sporting PS 2-0

GIO Football Sporting PS 2-0

Woolies Utd Avengers 1-1

Pool 2

Hot Shots Crown Cougars 5-0

AMRO - Ajax AAPT 0-3

Hot Shots AMRO - Ajax 3-3

Crown Cougars AAPT 0-0

Hot Shots AAPT 3-0

Crown Cougars AMRO - Ajax 1-0

Pool 3

AGC Young Guns Mohicans 3-0

Star City Blues Uncle Arthur 0-0

AGC Young Guns Star City Blues 1-0

Mohicans Uncle Arthur 0-2

AGC Young Guns Uncle Arthur 1-0

Mohicans Star City Blues 0-0

Pool 4

Optus United Skilled 1-0

Real CRS AFC Bauldhawkes 2-0

Optus United Real CRS AFC 1-1

Skilled Bauldhawkes 2-0

Optus United Bauldhawkes 2-0

Skilled Real CRS AFC 0-0

Pool 5

AMP Roos ASN United 4-0

Bears CSC United 4-0

AMP Roos Bears 0-1

ASN United CSC United 2-1

AMP Roos CSC United 5-1

ASN United Bears 1-2

Pool 6

OneTouchEasys Tooheys Blue 7-0

Optus Spirit Utd EGIS United 1-0

OneTouchEasys Optus Spirit Utd 1-0

Tooheys Blue EGIS United 0-4

OneTouchEasys EGIS United 1-1

Tooheys Blue Optus Spirit Utd 0-8

Pool 7

Bull & Bears DHL 0-5

Hi-Speed Team Unisys 0-5

Bull & Bears Hi-Speed Team 2-1

DHL Unisys 1-2

Bull & Bears Unisys 0-6

DHL Hi-Speed Team 3-0

Pool 8

Rosebery Redials Sydney Sirens 0-3

Putrid Fuji Xerox 0-0

Rosebery Redials Putrid 1-1

Sydney Sirens Fuji Xerox 1-0

Rosebery Redials Fuji Xerox 0-0

Sydney Sirens Putrid 1-1

Pool 9

AMP Legends Chase 1-3

Optus Alligators Wanderers 0-5

AMP Legends Optus Alligators 2-0

Chase Wanderers 4-2

AMP Legends Wanderers 1-0

Chase Optus Alligators 4-1

Pool 10

Pfizer United Strikers 2-0

Monster Banks Meinhardt FC 1-0

Pfizer United Monster Banks 2-0

Strikers Meinhardt FC 1-0

Pfizer United Meinhardt FC 2-0

Strikers Monster Banks 1-3

Pool 11

Hotspurs DMB-Soccer 2-1

E&Y United Reservoir Dogs 3-0

Hotspurs E&Y United 1-2

DMB-Soccer Reservoir Dogs 2-1

Hotspurs Reservoir Dogs 1-0

DMB-Soccer E&Y United 0-2

Pool 12

JTEC Westfield D&C 2-0

Soon Army TNTExpressD&I 1-1J

TEC Soon Army 1-0

Westfield D&C TNTExpressD&I 10-0

JTEC TNTExpressD&I FW-FLWestfield D&C Soon

Army 6-0

Pool 13

Boral Soccer Newtel 0-0

CR United HSBC United 0-2

Boral Soccer CR United 1-0

Newtel HSBC United 1-0

Boral Soccer HSBC United 3-1

Newtel CR United 5-0

Pool 14

Continental Liverpool 0-1

WB Warriors Boral 1 0-3

Continental WB Warriors 0-1

Liverpool Boral 1 3-0

Continental Boral 1 1-1

Liverpool WB Warriors 5-0

Pool 15

SB All Stars Compaq 0-0

Stadiplex The Fed 0-2

SB All Stars Stadiplex 1-0

Compaq The Fed 2-0

SB All Stars The Fed 1-0

Pool 16

PWC Soccer Fairfield Spirit 2-0

IDS Internazionale 1-1

PWC Soccer IDS 1-0

Fairfield Spirit Internazionale 2-1

PWC Soccer Internazionale 2-0

Fairfield Spirit IDS 6-0

Pool 17

Star City Gold Denai 2-0

The Terminators Optus Spirit FW-FLStar City Gold The

Terminators 4-1

Denai Optus Spirit FW-FLStar City Gold Optus Spirit FW-

FLDenai The Terminators 3-0

Pool 18

Sun Commercial Strikers 0-1

Tooheys Gold Telstra Terrors 0-4

Sun Tooheys Gold 0-5

Commercial Strikers Telstra Terrors 0-5

Sun Telstra Terrors 0-7

Commercial Strikers Tooheys Gold 1-5

Pool 19

Swifties Nestleros 0-0

Olympkicks WT Partnership 1-2

Swifties Olympkicks 1-1

Nestleros WT Partnership 1-0

Swifties WT Partnership 0-2

Nestleros Olympkicks 1-1

Pool 20

Ok! Drake 2-0

P-Factor Team Pink 3-0

Ok! P-Factor 4-0

Drake Team Pink 0-2

Ok! Team Pink 3-0

Drake P-Factor 0-2

Pool 21

Bauldeagles Colesmyer 2-0

Hyder Palace Sonsabeaches 0-2

Bauldeagles Hyder Palace 1-0

Colesmyer Sonsabeaches 0-3

Bauldeagles Sonsabeaches 0-1

Colesmyer Hyder Palace 2-1

Pool 22

Ansett Link 0-0

Bigguns Sadmeisters 1-2

Ansett Bigguns 3-0

Link Sadmeisters 2-0

Ansett Sadmeisters 3-2

Link Bigguns 1-0

Elimination Phase: Sunday 14 March

First Round:

Unisys Compaq 2-0

PWC Soccer JTEC 0-2

E&Y United OneTouchEasys 0-1

Chase Sydney Sirens 1-2

Ok! Optus United 1-0

Pfizer United Hot Shots 2-0

Sonsabeaches AGC Young Guns 0-0 (3-5)Liverpool
Woolies Utd 0-0 (4-2)
Star City Gold Ansett 0-0 (3-4)
Bears Newtel 1-3
Telstra Terrors WT Partnership 1-0
Second Round:
Unisys JTEC 2-0
OneTouchEasys Sydney Sirens 3-0
Ok! Pfizer United 0-0 (2-4)
AGC Young Guns Liverpool 1-0
Ansett Newtel 4-0
Telstra Terrors Star City Gold * 0-1
(* returned as best-ranked losers from earlier play)
Quarter-Finals:
Unisys OneTouchEasys 1-1 (6-5)
Pfizer United AGC Young Guns 1-1 (7-6)
Ansett Star City Gold 1-1 (4-3)
Semi-Finals:
Unisys Pfizer United 2-2 (7-6)
Ansett OneTouchEasys * 1-1 (3-5)
(* returned as best-ranked losers from earlier play)Third
Place Play-off:
Pfizer United Ansett 0-0 (3-2)
Final:
Unisys OneTouchEasys 1-0

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE

National Youth League

Northern Division

Wollongong 2 NSWIS 1
Marconi Fairfield 2 Sydney Utd 0
Newcastle 1 AIS 1
Northern Spirit 4 ACTAS 0
Marconi Fairfield 2 Sydney Utd Colts 1
Wollongong 5 Spirit Colts 1
QAS 3 Sydney Utd 2
NSWIS 6 Wollongong Colts
Olympic Academy 3 Marconi Colts 1
Sydney Olympic 3 Marconi Fairfield 0
Southern Division
Melbourne Knights 3 Bulleen Inter 2
Carlton 4 Albury Wodonga 0

NATIONAL LEAGUE

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS 1 (S Pryce pen70')
CARLTON SC 0
Venue: Breakers Stadium Crowd (98/99): 4,196

Referee: B Hugo

Cautions: A Marth (CSC) 31'; R Van Steeden (CSC) 36'; F Umlil (NB) 36'
Red Card: R McManus 88'

SOUTH MELBOURNE 1 (M Curcija 16')
ADELAIDE CITY 1 (C Veart 87')
Venue: Bob Jane Stadium Crowd (98/99): 8,169
Referee: S Micallef
Cautions: A Costanzo (AC) 23'; G Lozanovski (SM) 31'; C Talladira (AC) 66'
Red Card: A Costanzo (AC) 30'

NORTHERN SPIRIT 1 (C Zane 21')
CANBERRA COSMOS 2 (A Magnacca 29'; I de Jesus 72')
Venue: North Sydney Oval Crowd (98/99): 10,482
Referee: E Lennie
Cautions: A Magnacca (CC) 86'

GIPPSLAND FALCONS 0
WOLLONGONG WOLVES 3 (R Younis 15', 77'; E Masi 44')
Venue: Mobil Park Crowd (98/99): 1,531
Referee: W Dade
Cautions: G Souris (WW) 19'; R Stanton (WW) 38'; S Dimoski (WW) 67'; A Vargas (GF) 75'

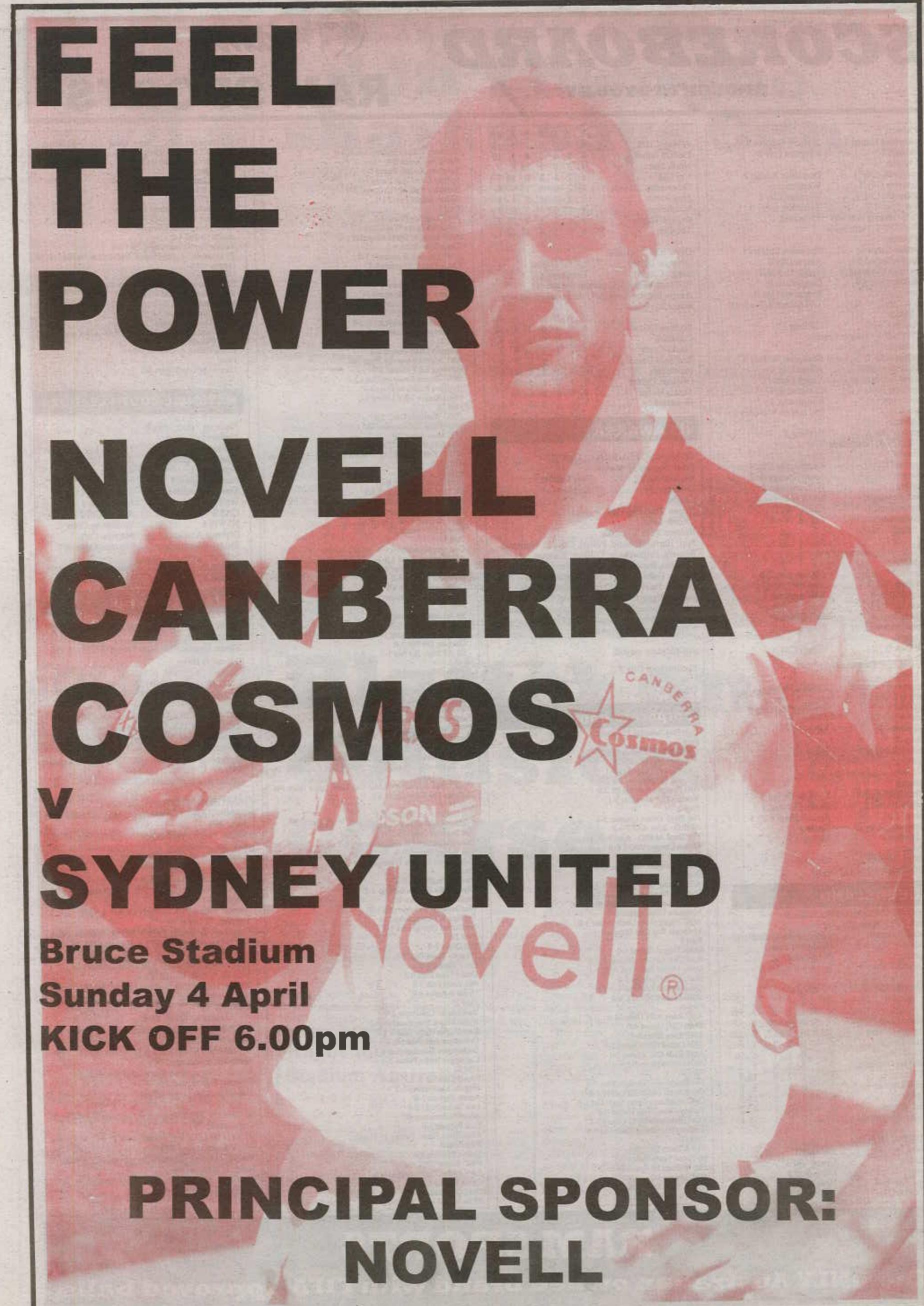
ADELAIDE SHARKS 1 (E Demourtzidis 34')
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 0
Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium Crowd (98/99): 1,632
Referee: M Shield
Cautions: nil

SYDNEY UNITED 4 (W Ardone 7'; D Barrett 9'; J Burns 55'; S Berry 71')
BRISBANE STRIKERS 3 (J Harris 30'; R Tollen-
naere 43'; S McLaren 77')
Venue: Edensor Park Crowd (98/99): 3,327
Referee: E Brazzale
Cautions: S McLaren (BS) 47'

MARCONI FAIRFIELD 3 (F Awaritefe 35', 89'; K Trajanovski 76')
PERTH GLORY 4 (C Boutsianis 7', 61'; M Garcia 10'; V Kalogeracos 87')
Venue: Marconi Stadium Crowd (98/99): 4,904
Referee: G Connolly
Cautions: M Babic (MF) 12'; G Wilkinson (PG) 36'; D Longo (MF) 63'

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v

SYDNEY UNITED

**Bruce Stadium
Sunday 4 April
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